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**Arafat, Christopher to meet in Cairo**

NABLUS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will meet in Cairo this week with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss troubled peace talks with Israel, according to a Palestinian official. Mr. Christopher will be attending a regional economic conference in Cairo between Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Arafat, who is not scheduled to participate in the conference, will travel to the Egyptian capital especially to meet with Mr. Christopher. Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said late Friday following a cabinet meeting in the West Bank city of Nablus. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who is leading his country's delegation to the conference, will be in Cairo as well, but there was no indication that a three-way meeting was planned.



**Jordan Times**

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

**King congratulates Clinton, Yeltsin**

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton congratulating him on his reelection for a second term in office. The King wished President Clinton success and the American people further progress and prosperity. The King reiterated the strength of ties between Jordan and the U.S. in all fields. He also praised the role of President Clinton in establishing peace and stability in the Middle East. The King expressed Jordan's keenness to work together with the U.S. to accomplish a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the region. King Hussein also sent a cable to Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulating him on the success of the operation he underwent last week. The King wished President Yeltsin good health and the Russian people further progress and prosperity.

**King receives Saudi official**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court assistant adviser to the Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Mishal Ben Abdullah who relayed to the King a message from Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud regarding bilateral relations. Attending the audience was Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabaruli.

**Bahrain to let Red Cross see Shiite detainees**

GENEVA (AFP) — Bahrain has given the green light to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit prisons and meet Shiite political prisoners, ICRC spokesman Rolin Wavre has said. Under an agreement signed on Oct. 28, after months of being turned down by the authorities in the Gulf state, ICRC delegates will be able to see Shiite and opposition figures regarded as "security detainees," he said. Dates have yet to be fixed, but the visits are expected to begin in the coming weeks.

**Saudi diplomat seeks asylum in Germany**

BOEN (AFP) — A "staff member" at the Saudi embassy in Bonn has asked for asylum for himself and his mother in Germany, a German "Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday. He refused to divulge the staff member's rank, identity or reasons for his request. But the German tabloid Bild reported Saturday that he is a senior diplomat at the embassy who fears reprisals after having made critical comments about the Saudi royal family. It said the diplomat, a 30-year-old vice consul named Faysal M., was also worried about heavy debts waiting for him back in the Gulf kingdom.

**IAF: Weizman's visit 'sinister'**

AMMAN (AP) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) lashed out at the government on Saturday for the visit of Israeli President Ezer Weizman. "We reject such a sinister visit because our people are not pleased, but are hurt and worried by such visits," the IAF said in a statement. It said Jordan should refuse to host "aggressors and oppressors." The group urged the government to take into account the feelings of Jordanians, claiming a majority of them oppose the 1994 peace treaty with Israel. The front, which commands 15 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, rejects any settlement with Israel. Mr. Weizman and his wife, Ruema, visited Jordan on Wednesday at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein.

**Ciller criticises EU**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller complained on Saturday that the European Union (EU) is being unfair by not moving ahead on Turkey's membership request because of human rights problems. After a 21-2 hour-long meeting with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, who currently holds the EU presidency, Ms. Ciller told reporters that she had urged the union to consider Turkey's application for full union membership. "Turkey, by entering into a customs union (with the EU), should have gotten ahead of Eastern European nations for full integration," Ms. Ciller said. "But the EU is not fulfilling its financial obligations."

# Jewish extremists converge on Hebron

## Israeli soldiers beat, arrest Palestinians

HEBRON, West Bank (Agencies) — Thousands of Israelis, many carrying prayer books and automatic rifles, Saturday converged on Hebron to back the tiny Jewish enclave in the city. Israeli troops beat and scuffled with counter demonstrators who chanted "settlers out."

About 8,000 Jewish supporters arrived in the city Friday for the Jewish Sabbath to mark the occasion of the death of the Biblical matriarch Sarah. The annual gathering usually draws far less visitors, who also came this year to show support for the Jewish presence in Hebron.

In the scuffles, at least 12 people, including the Palestinian governor of the Hebron district, were arrested by Israeli security forces. One Palestinian man was carried away on a stretcher after being beaten by Israeli troops.

Some settlers watching the clash chanted "no Palestine" and "Hebron is ours."

The flareup illustrated the explosive mix of Hebron, a city where 350 Jewish settlers and 150 Jewish seminary students live in five enclaves amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Israeli security officials, concerned that Jewish extremists might resort to violence to scuttle the planned Israeli troop pull-back, have drawn up contingency plans to round up radicals ahead of the redeployment.

The Hebron settlers are among the most militant in the West Bank, and include followers of the anti-Arab Kach Movement. In 1994, a Kach follower shot and killed 29 Muslim worshippers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs, the site where the Biblical figures of Abraham, Jacob, Isaac and Sarah are believed



Israeli police grab a Palestinian man by the collar and arrest him as Palestinians and Israeli peace activists tried to break through police and army lines in the West Bank town of Hebron Saturday (Reuters photo)

guard detail around the prime minister during the redeployment, and carrying out the movement of troops quickly, even overnight.

International observers from Norway, who have been in the city since April, wore bullet-proof vests Saturday. Until now, the observers were not protected, and bad said they did not feel they were in danger.

Security officials recommended beefing up the

# King tells participants at IPI seminar understanding only guarantee for security

## Gathering reviews peace process, stresses need to abide by agreements

By Sacha Baggili  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Building bridges of understanding is the only way to guarantee security for all parties to the peace process, His Majesty King Hussein Saturday told participants in a seminar designed to evaluate the peace process from an Arab perspective.

In a meeting at the Royal Court with members of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI), the organisers of the seminar, the King stressed that promoting hatred and suspicion "would lead us all to disaster."

During the meeting, also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabaruli, Minister of Information Marwan Muasher and Director of the International Press Office Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, King Hussein said that there appears to have been a shift from talk of peace and a prevailing atmosphere of "confidence and comfort" to an emphasis on security which has been conducive to "feelings of suspicion and fear" in relation to the parties to the peace process.

He insisted that for future progress, "no side should try to look down on another, but (rather) work as equals seeking solutions to the concerns of each."

The King blamed recent setbacks to the peace process on a minority of people who, he said, were "enemies of peace," striving to ruin the dreams and aspirations of the majority.

Earlier Saturday, two participants at the IPI seminar which was held on the peripheries of the IPI annual conference, former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Osama Baz, stressed that the Israeli Likud government has to abide by international law and the agreements made by its predecessor in Oslo and Madrid.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the October 1991 Middle East peace talks in Madrid, asked, "How can we rely on Israeli intentions if one government ignores agreements made by its predecessor?"

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's suggestion of a Puerto-Rican style status for Palestinians, Mr. Baz said the concept was "ridiculous."

He questioned whether Mr. Netanyahu was "serious" about this suggestion, adding that "he could be daydreaming."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa also rejected the Israeli proposal. Addressing journalists in Cairo Saturday, Mr. Musa said the proposal will further aggravate the situation in the Middle East.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is a self-governing part of the U.S. with a primary Hispanic culture.

The current political status of Puerto Rico gives the island's citizens virtually the same control over their internal affairs as the 50 states of the U.S. However, they do not vote in the national elections, although they do vote in national primary elections.

Mr. Baz said, "the Palestinians are different, the Puerto Ricans never owned America."

According to Mr. Baz, Mr. Netanyahu's insistence on opposing Palestinian statehood would be met with serious resistance. The Palestinians "would not take this lying down. It would be their legitimate right to oppose it by whatever means available," Mr. Baz said.

In his address to the seminar entitled "An evaluation of the Peace Process (An Arab Perspective)," Palestinian Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and Trade Samir Huleileh focused on the economic needs of the region under Palestinian authority. He highlighted the difficulties encountered in encouraging public and private investment in the area during the current period of political stagnation.

Mr. Huleileh also spoke of the urgent need of the Palestinian people to be "empowered" with the knowledge and skill needed to manage their own institutions.

# Qatar deplores Bahrain's boycott of GCC meeting

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar on Saturday deplored Bahrain's absence from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting here, which Manama is boycotting because it is being held in Doha.

Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani said in his speech at the opening of the meeting, "we would have liked to have all been here, and we hope that our brothers in Bahrain, for whom we feel friendship and respect, will participate in the GCC summit" here Dec. 7-9.

Foreign ministers from the other five of the six GCC countries were meeting here to set the agenda for next month's summit. The foreign minister said his country deplored Bahrain's absence.

The GCC members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain had announced plans to boycott the summit because of a territorial dispute with Qatar and had previously skipped the Nov. 2-3 GCC meeting here.

Sheikh Hamad said his country "is committed to not bringing up any matters that would upset our brothers in Bahrain" in case the Bahraini leaders decided to participate.

The more than half-a-century old Bahrain-Qatar border dispute concerns the Hawar islands and Fash Al Dibel rocks.

Qatar unilaterally sought the arbitration of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, a move challenged by Bahrain before it agreed in September to present its own case to the court.

The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al

# Council of Ministers reviews final draft of Speech from the Throne

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday reviewed the final draft of the Speech from the Throne with which His Majesty King Hussein will open the fourth and last ordinary session of the 12 Parliament Nov. 19.

The Speech from the Throne comprises the government's policies in all aspects and Jordan's position towards Arab questions, the issue of Palestine, as well as economic, social, cultural and political policies.

During its regular meeting session the council also approved three agreements that would be signed during the Indonesian President Suharto's visit to the Kingdom Monday. The agreements deal with investment promotion, dual taxation prevention and maritime transportation between the two countries.

The Cabinet approved the maritime agreement signed last week between Jordan and Greece.

After the session Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf said that the Japanese government would grant Jordan \$12 million to be used in purchasing equipment to improve water distribution system in greater Amman.

She also explained that the Washington-based International Bank for Reconstruction and Development would extend \$120 million for the government to help in carrying out Jordan's reform programmes to boost Jordanian exports, develop banking sector, enhance savings, develop Amman Financial Market and to give incentives to investors.

# Deputy Toujan Faisal again sentenced to two months in jail

By Ahmad Kreishan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Member of the Lower House of Parliament Toujan Faisal was Saturday sentenced to two months in prison and a fine of JD 6,000 after the First Instance Court in Wadi Al Seer again found her guilty of slandering Samar Oran.

The court had earlier issued the same verdict against Ms. Faisal but had to reexamine the case when the Court of Appeal annulled the decision, in order to give the deputy from Amman's Third District, the Circassian seat, the chance to submit defence documents she had said she had.

But Ms. Faisal failed to submit the documents and did not attend the court's sessions.

Ms. Faisal, the only female deputy, said she intends to appeal the ruling, which will not be final unless it is upheld by the Court of Appeal.

"I don't accept the verdict. I don't trust the judicial system," Deputy Faisal said. "I will sue the court and the whole judicial system at international courts."

Ms. Oran had accused Ms. Faisal of tarnishing her image and meddling in her private life by publicly criticising her in a tabloid article.

Ms. Oran demanded JD 15,000 in compensation for damage.

The article related to rumours spread last year over a possible relationship between Ms. Oran, a married woman, and former Minister of Higher Education Rabea Saud, who is also a deputy.

The story, which made headlines in the weekly tabloids, was soon forgotten.

But Ms. Oran insisted on suing Ms. Faisal for the statements she made over the issue and which were published in the weekly Shihan.

In a later interview published by the weekly Shihan, in July, Ms. Faisal said she did not want to interfere in the life of Ms. Oran and her husband adding that in the article she had written earlier she was only responding to the complaints made by Ms. Oran.

Ms. Oran had initially written to the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament complaining about excesses she claimed had been committed by ministers and deputies in discussing an alleged marital problem she faced and which involved a former minister.

According to Ms. Faisal, her words at the time were only in defence of the House's reputation.

Ms. Faisal claimed that top officials asked her not to attend the court sessions and



Toujan Faisal

# Iraqi Deputy Premier Aziz to lobby in Moscow for the oil-for-food deal

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday travelled to Moscow where he will ask Russian diplomats to renew their efforts to get the U.N. oil-for-food deal implemented. Iraqi officials said.

Mr. Aziz's visit, due to last several days, "marks the beginning of a larger political drive to implement the U.N.-Iraq memorandum of understanding," an official told AFP.

"Iraqi officials are also due to visit European and other capitals" for that purpose, he added, asking not to be named.

Iraq and the United Nations agreed in May to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 which allows Baghdad to sell \$2 billion of oil every six months to buy food and medicines under strict international control.

Resolution 986, also referred to as "oil-for-food", would ease for the first time the U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The United Nations put the deal on hold after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent his troops into the Kurdish-populated north in August, but is now trying to allow the agreement to move forward.

The U.S. elections and differences between Iraq and Washington on the pricing formula of the export bound crude and the U.N. staff who will supervise the oil sales and the humanitarian goods distribution have delayed the deal further.

Iraq has accused the United States of pressing to increase the number of international staff without justification, saying the cost of the monitors surpassed the funds allocated to many essential services.

On the other hand, Washington opposes an Iraqi request to approve the U.N. officials in charge of distributing the food and medicine in northern Iraq.

On Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he expected the U.N.-Iraq deal to go forward, but he pledged to pursue a tough line to keep President Saddam Hussein in check.



# Heavy shelling on north Kabul frontlines

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban Islamic militia and forces of Afghanistan's anti-Taliban alliance exchanged heavy artillery fire Saturday on the frontlines north of Kabul, but neither side made major territorial gains, field commanders said. Taliban militia commanders manning heavy artillery units said rival faction coalition troops had mounted a night offensive but were pushed back.

"Their troops tried moving up the road last night so we pounded them," a Taliban commander on the New Road told AFP.

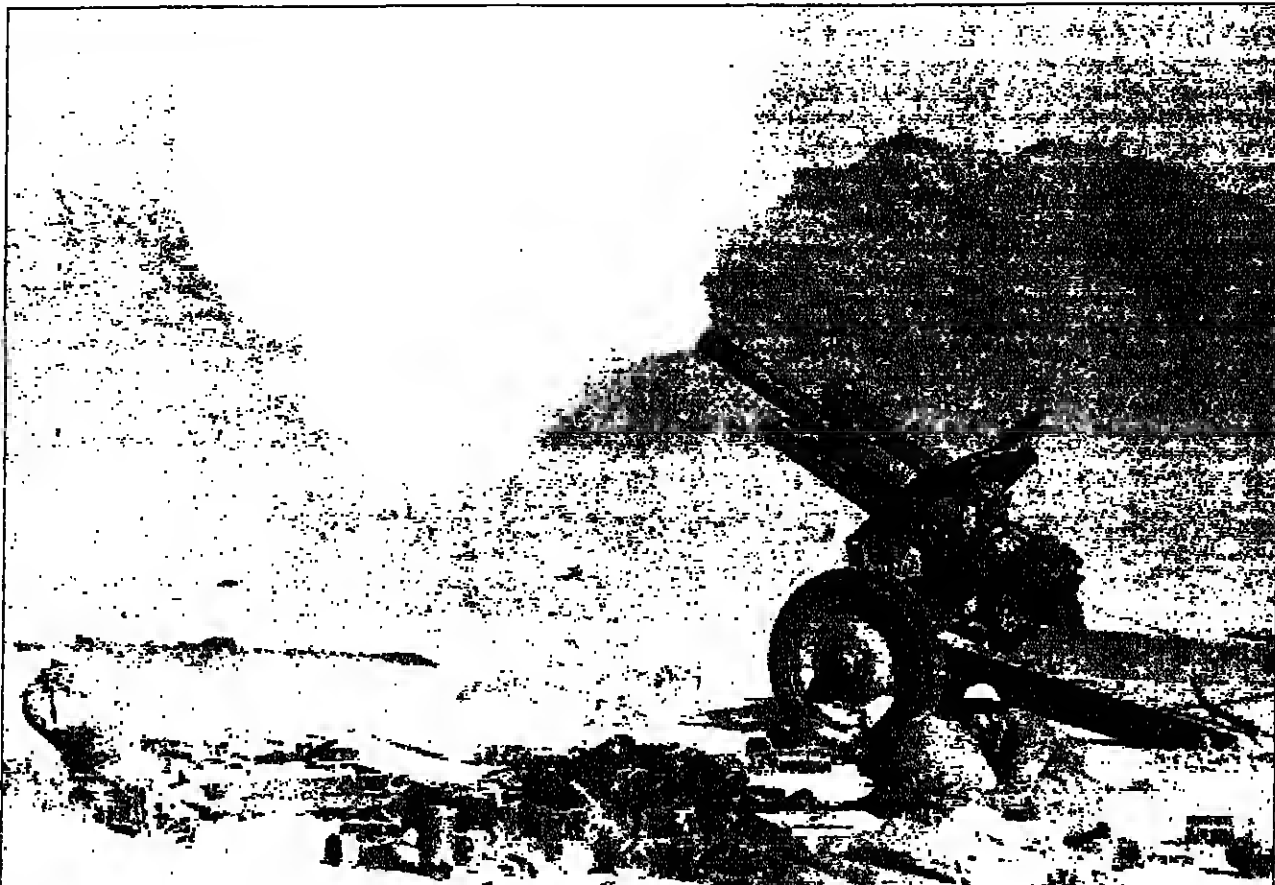
The New Road is one of two northbound highways exiting Kabul, on which are located a number of heavy weapons batteries, which were also in action Saturday.

Kabul airport was attacked three times by coalition jets on Saturday, but no casualties or damage were reported.

A Taliban commander on the New Road said his troops were shelling the old road, the second of two parallel-running northbound highways on which the frontlines are located just 20 kilometres north of Kabul at the village of Hossain Kot.

He said that 122mm D-30 Howitzers on the new road had also attempted to repel the Old Road offensive by the coalition forces of ex-government military strongman Ahmad Shah Massoud, who has been joined by Uzbek faction leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Travellers reaching Kabul



Taliban fighters fire a 122mm Howitzer, 30 kilometres north of the Afghan capital Saturday. Sporadic exchange of artillery and rocket fire continued between the Taliban and the former government forces deadlocked in a range of hills across the Shomali valley for two weeks but there had been no significant change in the front line (Reuters photo)

from the Old Road reported that an exchange of artillery fire between the fundamentalist militia and their coalition rivals continued Saturday morning.

According to Taliban on the new road their big guns were targeting Mr. Massoud's rear-line positions where troops are garrisoned for rotation to the frontlines about every 15 days.

"You can't see clearly

from here, but we are firing on their posts in Qarabagh," an operator of a BM-21 multi-barrel rocket launcher said.

Qarabagh is a district centre with an army regimental headquarters, located about 20 kilometres to the rear of the Hossain Kot frontlines.

With a car-splitting rocket streaked scarlet into the sky before disappearing

from sight — a dull boom followed seconds later as the rocket exploded.

Apart from the shelling from the New Road batteries there was little observable military activity on the frontlines.

Further to the north Bagram airbase was still held by anti-Taliban forces called the Supreme Council for the Defence of Afghanistan.

Despite a build-up of anti-

Taliban alliance troops on the old road, the Muslim militia defences have held firm during an offensive of almost three weeks.

The Dostum-Massoud coalition is more likely to mount any major assault on Kabul on the old road in coordination with similar attacks from different directions around the capital, as well as against Taliban-controlled provincial centres.

# Israeli soldier killed, 4 wounded in S. Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was killed and three other troops and a civilian were wounded Saturday in a Hizbollah guerrilla attack and retaliatory Israeli shelling in South Lebanon, sources said.

The attack on the Israeli soldiers was claimed by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon, security service sources in the occupied zone told AFP.

The security sources said mortars and rockets targeted an Israeli army position at Blat, on the western edge of the "security zone" occupied by Israel in South Lebanon, killing one soldier and wounding three others.

Israeli artillery responded by firing around 30 shells at suspected Hizbollah positions near Yater and Kafra, injuring a Lebanese civilian in the lcg. hospital sources

said. Mussa Rashid, 61, was picking olives in his field in Yater just outside the western edge of the "security zone" when he was hit by shell fragments, they added.

Rashid was first taken to the nearby hospital at Tebin before being transferred to Amel hospital in Tyre, 83 kilometres south of Beirut, where the sources described his condition as "serious."

The Islamic resistance, the military wing of Hizbollah, claimed the attack on Blat in a statement from Beirut. It also said the group destroyed a Merkava tank and a heavy artillery battery.

The five-nation group monitoring a truce accord in South Lebanon earlier this week criticised Israeli forces for shelling a village where a woman was injured

last Sunday. But it did not accuse Israel of violating the April deal which bans both sides from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

"In this case, the Israeli forces were responsible for the manner in which they carried out their mortar fire which resulted in the injury and damage ... and they might have taken more effective precautions," said the group.

The Israeli bombardment came in response to a Hizbollah bomb attack that killed a militiaman of the South Lebanon Army, which is allied with Israel.

Since the beginning of the year, at least 23 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 80 wounded in South Lebanon. Most anti-Israeli attacks in the region are carried out by the Shiite fundamentalist Hizbollah militia.

# Iran welcomes changes in Clinton's cabinet

TEHRAN (AP) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher's resignation gives Washington an opportunity to change its failed policy towards Tehran, Iranian newspapers said Saturday.

Mr. Christopher and Defence Secretary William Perry are among the cabinet officials who will not serve during President Clinton's second term — a move the English-language Iran News described as "a bid to improve his tarnished image abroad."

The pro-government Tehran Times urged Mr. Clinton to "reconsider his foreign policy (towards Iran) before forming his new cabinet."

Both newspapers accused Mr. Christopher of pursuing a Mideast policy favouring Israel, a strategy that hurt Washington's prestige.

Iran has long been critical of Mr. Christopher and Mr. Perry. It has held the two responsible for enforcing Washington's long-standing policy that Iran is a rogue state and should be isolated.

But the Tehran Times said in the same editorial that the United States, not Iran, had been the loser in their dispute. It is "the U.S. that suffers most due to the severance of relations with Iran," the newspaper said.

# Kuwait starts manoeuvres with Gulf war allies

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The latest round of military exercises between Kuwait and its Gulf war allies began on Saturday to boost ties and deter potential Iraqi threats, military and embassy officials said.

French forces began a week of military manoeuvres on Saturday by readying aircraft and equipment flown and shipped into the country in the last few days, the French embassy said.

France, one of the three leading partners in the coalition that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991, has flown in four Mirage 2000 fighters to join marines, tanks and four ships taking part in the exercises. The manoeuvres, codenamed Pearl of the West 96, will end on Nov. 15 and are aimed at developing "efficient military co-operation" as part of a defence pact France has with Kuwait, the embassy said in an earlier statement.

Gulf war allies the United States, France and Britain all signed defence pacts with Kuwait after liberation and regularly hold exercises with the forces of the oil-rich Gulf state.

American troops already training in the Kuwaiti desert are gearing up for live-fire practice with their Kuwait counterparts in late November using tanks, artillery and infantry, Sergeant Gary Jones told AFP.

Sgt. Jones, who is based at camp Doha near Kuwait City where the United States has prepositioned equipment, said no date has yet been finalised but the exercises are likely to go ahead around Nov. 20-22.

The latest manoeuvres between Kuwait and the United States are aimed to show the military readiness of the combined forces, Sgt. Jones said. "There is also a certain degree of deterrence in anything we do here," he added.

The United States raised its troop numbers in Kuwait during September when Iraq sent some 3,000 new soldiers from the First Cavalry Division to join about 1,200 men training in the Kuwaiti desert since August.

The British aircraft carrier, HMS Invincible, is also due to dock in Kuwait with its Harrier jets and helicopters in mid-November.

# Egypt warns Israel against 'big' business dreams without peace

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt on Saturday warned Israel against "big" illusions of bolstering business ties with the Arabs in the absence of progress in the peace-process.

"The days of your (Israel) big thinking in Casablanca or in Amman are over," Foreign Minister Amr Musa said as he briefed the foreign press association here on Egypt's expectations from the third regional economic conference.

The three-day Middle East and North Africa opens Tuesday in Cairo and is the third such forum after the 1994 Casablanca and 1995 Amman meetings.

"You (Israel) are coming as a normal country, like any other state, to cooperate with others. And the others if they wish to deal with you, it is up to them," Mr. Musa

said. He stressed that all countries were "equal" and rejected the belief that Israel was "a centre of attraction."

"Some of us thought that all those conferences are centered around Israel, that Israel is the center of attraction, is the leader of the economy, and that all these conference people are coming from all over the world in order to act or to deal or to talk on an issue, that Israel represents its centre."

"This image has to change, the Middle East region has so much potential, powerful economies, so many countries, so much development ... Israel is one country in the region. It does not represent the centre of regional economic cooperation," Mr. Musa said.

Addressing Israel, he said: "If you progress in

the peace process and move according to the rules of the game, according to what we have agreed in Madrid, to what you have signed in Oslo, what you have signed in Cairo and in Taha, you will get more, and we are really hopeful that the message will be positive, objective."

"There is a lot of frustration in the region and in the public opinion about the peace process and its future, because of Israeli policy and the mood is really an angry mood in the region, not a hopeful mood as before," he said.

He said "that is why the conference is an important step in the direction of underlining that what we need in the region is cooperation based on peace, not despite peace."

# Iraq said to be seeking reconciliation with Syria

AMMAN (AP) — Iraq is seeking to resume diplomatic relations with Syria and has asked a hard-line Palestinian faction to mediate, an official with the group said Saturday.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz made the request, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Saturday.

"Mr. Aziz asked a visiting PFLP delegation this week to convey a message to the Syrian leadership that Baghdad wishes to resume ties and normalise relations," said Abdul Rahim Mallouh of the Damascus-based Palestinian faction.

"He told us that Iraq was ready to establish relations at any level," added Mr. Mallouh, a member of the four-member delegation.

Iraqi and Syrian diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

Jordanian politicians visited Syria earlier this month and their agenda included efforts to improve Syrian-Iraqi ties. They said Damascus turned down the offer, saying it was not ready for normal ties with Iraq.

Syria and Iraq severed relations in 1980 after Damascus sided with Iran in its eight-year war against Iraq.

Relations further worsened when Syria joined the U.S.-led multinational coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991.

But Syria sought closer relations with Iraq after neighbouring Turkey agreed to let Israeli jet fighters use its airspace for exercises. They also have been coordinating their stance against Turkey's plans to build a new dam on the Euphrates, affecting downstream flow in Syria and Iraq. Arab newspapers reported a secret meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein this summer. Iraq and Syria denied the reports.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

14:05.....Fleets American Tails  
14:30.....You Bet Your Life  
15:00.....Cajon  
15:30.....Week-Ends Special  
16:00.....Doc. — World Echo  
16:30.....The Famous Five (Drama)  
17:00.....News Flash  
17:12.....Our World  
17:15.....Search and Rescue  
18:00.....Magazine — Fair Fax Review  
19:00.....Le Journal  
19:15.....Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30.....News Headlines  
19:35.....Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00.....Auto Classics  
20:30.....The Album Show  
21:10.....Great Books  
22:45.....News in English  
23:15.....Madson  
23:59.....Yes, Minister

## PRAYER TIMES

04:36.....Fair  
05:55.....Sunrise/Dawn  
11:19.....Dhuhr  
14:18.....Asr  
16:44.....Maghrib  
18:03.....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith, Tel. 8107-40  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Sante Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622666  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 975041.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811245  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

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AMMAN:  
Dr. Ibrahim Al-Husseini 44723  
Dr. Nidal Al-Ahmad 75762  
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 76045  
Rashid pharmacy 773112  
Farid pharmacy 773116  
Al Asema pharmacy 637055  
Nairukh pharmacy 625672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644955  
Shmeisari pharmacy 637660  
Nigh pharmacy 647662  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Mar Bader 770-52  
Al Qadhi pharmacy 770-52  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Hafez Al-Salfiti 914144  
Khalid pharmacy 985417

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Sunny and warm weather conditions are expected to prevail during the day but turning cool at night, temperatures slightly higher than average, and winds southerly to easterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Helicopter 192-621111/777  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 806399  
Public Security Dept. 630321  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 697467  
Armenian Municipality Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information directors 630341  
Emergency Call 019-99999  
Central Amman telephone  
Reports 02-21001  
Ambulance Reports 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
J. Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Co. 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Center 813131  
Khalid Maternity 644216  
Akil Maternity 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisari 407071  
Shmeisari Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Mushref Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612677  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013  
Al-Bashir 77511126  
Army, Marka 89161175  
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050  
Amal Hospital 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital 09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732  
Al-Hana Modern Hospital 019989001  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital 02275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital 03614111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia

## INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

08:52/08:55 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08-527000

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:45.....Alqaba (RJ)  
08:15.....Bunyah (RJ)  
08:35.....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:50.....Larnaca (RJ)  
09:15.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:50.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00.....Jeddah, Agaba (RJ)  
10:05.....Beirut (RJ)  
10:15.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:45.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:10.....London (RJ)  
18:10.....Athens (RJ)  
18:40.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:15.....Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
19:30.....Tunis (RJ)  
19:35.....Vienna (RJ)  
19:40.....Rome (RJ)  
23:00.....Alpha (RJ)  
00:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
Other Flights  
05:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
11:30.....Doha (Q7)  
12:30.....Bahrain (GF)  
13:30.....Moscow (SU)  
15:30.....Doha (EK)  
19:35.....Cairo (MS)  
20:10.....Beirut (ME)  
21:15.....London, Beirut (BA)  
22:20.....Jeddah (TK)  
22:30.....Athens (OA)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
09:50.....Alqaba (RW)  
19:45.....Tel Aviv (RW)

## DEPARTURES

05:15.....Alqaba (RJ)  
06:30.....Beirut (RJ)  
08:40.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00.....Tunis (RJ)  
11:05.....Vienna (RJ)  
11:30.....Rome (RJ)  
12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:15.....London (RJ)  
12:20.....Athens (RJ)  
20:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
20:30.....Jeddah (RJ)  
20:30.....Agaba (RJ)  
20:40.....Damascus (RJ)  
21:00.....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:10.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:45.....Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45.....Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
05:40.....London (KJ)  
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
07:00.....Beirut (ME)  
08:15.....London (BA)  
12:30.....Athens (OA)  
13:30.....Doha (EK)  
15:05.....Moscow (SU)  
16:30.....Dubai (EK)  
20:25.....Cairo (MS)  
01:30.....Amsterdam (KL)

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## ROYAL WINGS (RW) Flights

09:50.....Alqaba (RW)  
19:45.....Tel Aviv (RW)

## DEPARTURES

05:15.....Alqaba (RJ)  
06:30.....Beirut (RJ)  
08:40.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00.....Tunis (RJ)  
11:05.....Vienna (RJ)  
11:30.....Rome (RJ)  
12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:15.....London (RJ)  
12:20.....Athens (RJ)  
20:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
20:30.....Jeddah (RJ)  
20:30.....Agaba (RJ)  
20:40.....Damascus (RJ)  
21:00.....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:10.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:45.....Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45.....Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
05:40.....London (KJ)  
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
07:00.....Beirut (ME)  
08:15.....London (BA)  
12:30.....Athens (OA)  
13:30.....Doha (EK)  
15:05.....Moscow (SU)  
16:30.....Dubai (EK)  
20:25.....Cairo (MS)  
01:30.....Amsterdam (KL)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 am, every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 pm, every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 am, every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 pm, every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple.....700/500  
Banana.....550/550  
Banana (imported).....800/600  
Cabbage.....100/80  
Carrot.....260/150  
Cauliflower.....240/180  
Cucumber (large).....180/120  
Cucumber (small).....350/250  
Eggplant.....170/100  
Garlic.....700/500  
Grapes.....450/300  
Guava.....400/300  
Lemon.....350/100  
Marrow (large).....200/120  
Marrow (small).....300/200  
Onion (green).....300/160  
Onion (dry).....130/80  
Olive (green).....500/450  
Olive (black).....800/500  
Orange.....580/400  
Pear.....500/400  
Pepper (hot).....300/250  
Pepper (sweet).....250/180  
Potato.....340/240  
Spinach.....250/100  
String Bean.....470/330  
Tomato.....280/180

## What's

Photography exhibition "Al Aqaba" by Shomran Foundation, Jabal Gharbi, Coracao, Indonesia. Russian photo exhibition until Nov. 30.  
Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour, works by Maha Abu Ghosh at In Amman, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displays works by contemporary Jordanian Crafts Development Centre.  
Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Haniyeh, until Nov. 15.

# Home N

# King meet of Chine

His Majesty King Hussein met with Speaker of the Chinese Parliament, Jiao Guobang, in Beijing on Saturday. The King and the Speaker discussed the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Jiao said that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of friendly relations with Jordan. He expressed his hope that the visit would further enhance the ties between the two nations.

The King, in his response, thanked Mr. Jiao for his warm welcome and expressed his appreciation for the Chinese government's efforts to promote international peace and stability.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the role of Jordan in the region. They also talked about the economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The King and the Speaker agreed to hold further discussions on various issues of mutual interest in the near future.

# Prince Talal Be

# Saud begins wo

HRH Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Arab League, arrived in Amman on Saturday for a working visit. He will be staying at the Hashemite Palace.

The Prince is on a tour of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and will attend a meeting of the Arab League Council of Ministers.

During his visit, the Prince will meet with the Jordanian leadership and discuss the current situation in the Arab world.

The Prince's visit is part of his efforts to strengthen the ties between the Arab League member states.

He will also attend a reception in his honor at the Hashemite Palace. The Prince is expected to stay in Amman for several days.

The Prince's visit is highly anticipated by the Jordanian people, who look up to him as a symbol of Arab unity and leadership.

He will be accompanied by a large entourage, including his family and close advisors.

The Prince's visit is expected to result in the signing of several agreements and declarations of support for the Arab cause.

The Prince's visit is a testament to the strong relations between Jordan and the Arab League.

He will be staying at the Hashemite Palace, which is a symbol of the Jordanian monarchy.

The Prince's visit is a significant event in the Jordanian calendar.

He will be attending a series of meetings and discussions with the Jordanian leadership.

The Prince's visit is a testament to the strong relations between Jordan and the Arab League.

He will be staying at the Hashemite Palace, which is a symbol of the Jordanian monarchy.



## King meets with speaker of Chinese parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday met with Speaker of the Chinese Parliament Chao Chi at the Royal Court and expressed Jordan's satisfaction in relations and cooperation between the two countries.

"We, in Jordan, are enthusiastic about developing and bolstering these ties for the benefit of the Jordanian and Chinese people," the King said at the meeting, attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Sour as well as Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Liu Bao Lai.

Mr. Chi stated his appreciation to the King as to the warm welcome accorded his delegation and also conveyed Chi-

nese leadership greetings to the King and the Jordanian people.

He said that the Chinese are deeply appreciative of the King's role in strengthening Sino-Jordanian ties as well as his contributions to the peace process.

Mr. Chi arrived in Amman earlier Saturday, as the head of an official delegation, and at the time stated his country's appreciation of Jordanian efforts towards the attainment of a permanent and comprehensive peace.

He is making the four-day visit at the invitation of Mr. Sour and spoke of strong diplomatic relations between China and Jordan over the past 19 years, emphasising ties between the two parliaments both in their respective countries as well as in

various international forums.

China respects Jordan's prominent role in regional and international affairs, Mr. Chi said adding that in light of current international developments the Chinese parliament is taking steps to bolster parliamentary ties in the region and particularly with Jordan.

Mr. Chi also stated his anticipation at meeting with Jordanian leaders to discuss regional and international issues of common concern and to explore ways to increase and strengthen cooperation in various fields.

He is expected to hold meetings with Mr. Sour, other parliament members, government officials and ministers during his visit.

## Chemical residues, pesticides not a national problem — report

AMMAN (Petra) — A recently released report asserts that Jordan's food supply neither contains carcinogenic substances nor any other pollutant which might harm the environment and therefore the produce grown within, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat announced Saturday.

This includes, the minister confirmed, both food consumed in the Kingdom and that which is exported abroad.

Addressing a press conference, he said that the results of an intensive 1992 government-commissioned study, presented to the council of ministers, stressed that produce grown in Jordan is not neg-

atively impacted by pesticides nor other chemical substances.

Dr. Tubeishat, who is chairman of the board of the General Corporation of Environmental Protection (GCEP), said that since 1993 authorities have been conducting tests on breast milk samples in order to determine whether chemical pesticides used in farming had any deleterious effect.

He explained that additional analyses were conducted by the chemical department at the University of Jordan with "very satisfactory" results.

In addition, about 500 samples taken from human body fat and fruits and vegetables were analysed at the University of Jordan to provide assurances that

food remained free of contamination and its auxiliary effects.

Also samples of livestock products, soil and imported foods underwent laboratory tests at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and proved to be free of adulteration, added the minister.

He said that the test results were compared with those conducted in Europe with satisfactory results and that these same results showed that only five per cent of the samples demonstrated any chemical residues above that which is legally sanctioned.

Dr. Tubeishat said that authorities also conducted tests on water drawn from artesian wells in the Amman, Jordan Valley, Zarqa and Azraq regions

with satisfactory results and that only a slight chemical residue was found in fish in Jordan Valley ponds, the King Talal dam, the Jordan River and other water sources in Azraq.

The council of ministers endorsed the committee's report, yet requested that the Ministry of Agriculture tighten control on various substances found in soil, air and water, including strict penalties on those who might violate the new regulations.

According to Dr. Tubeishat, the council of ministers also requested that the GCEP serve as a national centre for data and information provision regarding food and water quality and to report any contamination found there-

in.

The minister also requested that those responsible for standardisation and specifications accelerate work on a national set of specifications in regard to the pesticide usage in production plants and asked the Ministry of Agriculture to expand pesticide awareness programmes.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday also visited the GCEP and met with Dr. Tubeishat who briefed him on the general environmental situation in Jordan.

The prime minister said that he would report to His Majesty King Hussein on the corporation's work.

## Theatre troupe performs for charity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Nabil and Hisham theatre troupe Saturday performed their play "Human Rights" at a fund-raising benefit for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF).

The show was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Ben Nayef and Princess Wijdan, who deputised for CPF Honorary President Her Majesty Queen Noor, a Royal Court statement said.

According to actor Nabil Sawalha, the satirical comedy "Human Rights," which was launched last Ramadan, "touches every side of our lives, ranging from social and political issues to children's rights in particular."

Mr. Sawalha added that the Nabil and Hisham troupe regularly perform shows to support charitable causes.

CPF, a non-profit organisation established in 1977, has founded six rehabilitation centres in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba, Salt,

Karak and Mafrq that care for nearly 10,000 children afflicted with cerebral palsy.

Six years ago, the foundation opened a pilot kindergarten at the Ministry of Education school building in Amman for children who were not accepted in or unable to attend regular schools because of their physical disabilities.

In 1994, the CPF expanded the Amman centre to include an Occupational Therapy Department as well as a splint laboratory to produce splints for children.

CPF services are provided free of charge, and the foundation depends on donations and fund-raising activities to cover the high cost of running the centres and the school.

Cerebral palsy is a disorder of movement and posture that appears early in life due to damage to the motor areas of the brain controlling movement.

## Visiting Canadian development chief studies joint projects

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Director General of the International Development Research Centre in Canada (IDRC) Flora MacDonald is on a 10-day visit to the Kingdom as part of the centre's efforts to assist research capability in developing countries.

Ms. MacDonald's visit was also aimed at looking at and evaluating joint projects conducted by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and funded by IDRC.

She told the Jordan Times Saturday that she has been able to take a closer look at the outcome of the projects implemented in Jordan, adding that she will tour the RSS projects in Salt and Azraq.

She expressed the centre's

satisfaction with the RSS project results and emphasised the success Jordan has achieved in applied technology, saying that it has been duplicated in other countries.

In its cooperation with RSS, IDRC has sponsored many projects some of which are environmentally-related such as the air pollution monitoring project. Other mechanical design projects include the development of long-life multi-layered polyethylene film for agricultural purposes, and recycled polyethylene waste film.

IDRC has also provided equipment as well as necessary training and expertise to assist Jordan in the establishment of a national information system in Jordan.

On Saturday Ms. Mac-

Donald toured the RSS' different departments and listened to a briefing on the society's activities in studies, research and providing consulting services to industries.

Also Saturday, Ms. MacDonald met with HRH Crown Prince Hassan and discussed bilateral relations as well as Canadian views of the Middle East peace process.

She told the Jordan Times that her meeting with the Crown Prince also touched on the refugee problem and the role the donor countries could play in improving the refugee situation in the region.

Canada chairs the multilateral working group on refugees in the Middle East peace process.

## Joint Indonesian, Jordanian business meeting announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Saturday announced that it will organise a joint meeting for Jordanian businessmen and a visiting Indonesian business delegation.

The meeting is slated to convene Monday evening.

The statement said that the Indonesian delegation, which will be accompanying Indonesian President Suharto on his four-day visit to Jordan, is comprised of representatives from Indonesian garment, textile, furniture, pharmaceutical and other industries as well as assorted factories.

The Indonesian president is due in Amman Monday.

The talks will be a continuation of those held in Jakarta during a business-orient-

ed visit last March, the statement said delineating Jordan as importing timber, rubber, glassware, palm oil, shoes, garments from Indonesia as well as exporting fertilisers, potash, phosphate and minerals to the island.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Eddy Sumatri Saturday said that President Suharto's talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other national leaders will cover bilateral ties after which officials from both sides will sign a number of economic agreements.

The ambassador also said his country strongly supports the Palestinian struggle for the reinstatement of their legitimate rights in their homeland.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday meets with Chairman of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development HRH Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud to discuss education and child welfare issues. Also attending are HRH Prince Ra'ad, HRH Prince Talal and Minister of Education Munther Masri (Petra photo).

## Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud begins working visit to Jordan

AMMAN — HRH Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, chairman of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), arrived in Amman Saturday on a two-day working trip to Jordan.

Here upon the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Prince Talal joined Queen Noor on a tour of the Jubilee School and attended a briefing on the school's progress and philosophy by the students, a Royal Court statement said.

Prince Talal praised the Queen's "pioneering role in the field of education" adding that the Jubilee School will produce "the gifted and talented of the Arab World," the statement said.

Both Prince Talal and Queen Noor serve on the Board of Trustees of the Mentor Foundation to combat drug abuse among youth.

Later King Hussein and Queen Noor hosted a dinner in honour of Prince Talal at Al Nadwa Palace. During his stay, Prince Talal will visit the National Task Force for Children and the Institute for Child

Health and Development.

The Jubilee School, which is an independent co-educational secondary boarding school for outstanding scholarship students from the country and the region, was conceived as an educational project to commemorate His Majesty King Hussein's Silver Jubilee. The school's main aim is to nurture human talent, leadership, community service, national and social solidarity and the leadership potential of the students' less developed parts of society.

Its Center for Excellence in Education, which cooperates with the Ministry of Education, conducts research, training programmes and educational workshops for teachers and students of Jordanian public and private schools and develops innovative curricula for the country's secondary schools.

The ACCD, which was established by Prince Talal in 1987 to coordinate the ongoing efforts and numerous organisations working for children in the region, provides technical expertise and financial assistance for non-governmental organisations and

national institutions working in the field of child welfare. Organises regional training workshops, conferences and seminars, undertakes evaluation studies on early childhood development and pre-school educational practices and proposes methods to enhance and improve child-rearing practices, the statement said.

The Council, which has established a specialised Documentation and Information Centre on the state of children and child-related issues in Arab countries, publishes and promotes the research findings of its centre as well as those of Arab researchers in the field of childhood of development.

Prince Talal was received by Royal Court Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Ra'ad, Director of the National Security Council HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour, Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous, Minister of Education Munther Masri and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Sudeiri, the statement said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Queen visits photo exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday toured a photography exhibition by Basma Asfour at the French Cultural Centre, a Royal Court statement said. The photographs, whose theme is France, its people and culture as seen through the eyes of a Jordanian, "analyse the interaction between man and the city." According to Ms. Asfour, who lived and worked in France for over a decade, her work chronicles repeated actions of regular people in relation to their physical environment and is "an attempt to reach the true meaning of daily life through the elimination of distracting elements."

### Princess meets with JNFW

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Saturday presided over a meeting of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) and expressed appreciation for the efforts which the JNFW has exerted to familiarise Jordanian women with the forum's objectives.

### Ambassador visits Shura Council

TEHRAN (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Tehran Nooh Ali Salman visited the Iranian Shura Council where he met with Council Deputy Speaker Hujjatulislam Hassan Rouhani. The two sides discussed Jordanian-Iranian relations and the ratification of commercial cooperation agreements. Both sides affirmed their intention of improving bilateral relations to serve Muslim nations. Mr. Nooh Salman had previously met with Director of Iranian Radio and Television Corporation (IRTC) Ali Larjani and the two discussed the results of an IRTC visit to the Kingdom. Mr. Larjani emphasised the IRTC's enthusiastic media cooperation with Jordan.

### Yemen, Jordan review education

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal Saturday received President of Queen Arwa University Wahibeh Fareh from the Yemeni Republic. The two reviewed educational cooperation and Dr. Fareh praised Jordanian universities performance in educational and cultural fields.

## What's Going On

### EXHIBITIONS

- Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.
- Works by twenty four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30.
- Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.
- Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.
- Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Sbchadeh at Darat Al Fununi, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nasrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.
- "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Nov. 10.
- Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.







## Fighting grips Sri Lanka, 15 dead

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sporadic fighting has again gripped Sri Lanka's embattled northern and eastern regions, with 15 people, including 11 security personnel, killed in the latest clashes, officials here said Saturday.

Saboteurs from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) exploded a bomb inside a government-owned shop on northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday, killing two people and wounding seven others, officials sources here said.

The daring day-light attack took place in the heart of Jaffna town, which

was wrested from Tiger control in December last year after nearly 50 days of fighting.

Hundreds of Tiger activists are still believed to be hiding in Jaffna although the military is in the process of restoring civil administration in the region, officials said.

The latest Tiger action came within hours of another attack against a police post in the eastern district of Polonnaruwa, which killed six constables and four volunteer guards, officials said.

In a separate confrontation in Jaffna, Tiger guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled

grenade at a military vehicle Friday, killing one officer and wounding two others.

Troops killed two Tiger gunmen in another confrontation in Jaffna Friday, a military spokesman here said.

And at least 12 bus passengers and two security personnel were wounded when troops mistook them for a Tamil guerrilla attack force and opened fire in the eastern district of Batticaloa, officials said.

Government troops had boarded the bus to take them back to their camp a short distance away when fellow soldiers, believing

they were Tiger rebels, launched an attack Friday evening, officials said.

"An army captain and another soldier in the bus were seriously wounded," a local official said.

"Another 12 civilian passengers who suffered minor injuries were treated at a nearby hospital and sent home."

Tiger guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have been killed in bitter fighting since 1972.



A Zairean rebel soldier pushes people back with his machine gun at a food distribution point in Goma. Zairean Tutsi rebels fired into the air and beat back more than 1,000 hungry people trying to seize food the last food in a U.N. refugee agency warehouse in Zaire's eastern city of Goma on Friday (Reuters photo)

## Gambia says 6 soldiers killed in camp attack

BANJUL (R) — Six Gambian soldiers were killed and five wounded when heavily armed men attacked an army camp in Farafenni in eastern Gambia Friday, the defence ministry said.

"It is regretted that six Gambian soldiers were killed in the camp at Farafenni and five wounded," it said, adding that the wounded were in hospital in the capital Banjul.

The ministry gave no casualty report for the attackers.

The statement made no mention of the identity of "the gang of handits." But some, including wounded, had been arrested by authorities in Senegal where they had escaped.

"Arrangements have been made for the Senegalese government to hand over the gangsters," it said.

The statement said the deaths resulted from a shootout when Gambian army reinforcements pursued the attackers as they fled with stolen arms and the camp commander and two of his men as hostages after a fight for the armory.

"The camp commander and his two men were rescued and the rest of the gang fled into Senegal, and soldiers of the Gambia are combing the area around the border in search of them," the defence ministry said.

One of the attackers was captured and all their vehicles and stolen arms recovered, it added.

The statement said the attackers "used soldiers' wives and other family members as human shields during a four-hour shootout

at the camp.

A witness contacted by telephone from Banjul said the 4 a.m. attack was carried out by heavily armed men dressed in red.

National police chief Samara Jammeh issued a statement on state radio hailing public meetings all over the country. Troops were rushed to Farafenni from Banjul, 250 kilometres away, and from two provincial military camps.

Some Gambians speculated the attackers could be a mercenary force linked to independence President Sir Dawda Jawara who was deposed in a military coup by the present head of state. Others raised the possibility of a rebellion.

Mr. Jawara, exiled in London, told British Broadcasting Corporation radio he had no knowledge of the attack.

A correspondent for radio France from nearby Senegal said inhabitants of Farafenni town heard an aircraft overhead and an hour later gunfire erupted near the town's military camp.

Several Gambian soldiers who fled to nearby homes said the attackers spoke English but were not Gambians, said the radio report monitored by the BBC.

Farafenni is a small town on the so-called Transgambian Road, the only land route to the capital. The military camp is Gambia's second largest.

The army has taken a central role in Gambia, a west African tourist haven of about a million people, since the 1994 coup led by then Captain Yahya Jammeh.

## Four European states form joint crisis force

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — France, Italy, Spain and Portugal constituted a joint rapid reaction force on Saturday for future use on humanitarian and peace-keeping missions in conflicts like the one now devastating eastern Zaire.

Defence ministers from the four nations and about 250 of their troops on parade gathered in Florence's Piazza Della Signoria under the gaze of statues by Michelangelo for the founding ceremony.

Known as Eurofor and with its command headquarters in Florence under Spanish General Juan Ortuno Such, it will be able to call on up to 10,000 troops depending on the scale of any crisis it is asked to tackle once fully operational.

"Today's ceremony...represents first and foremost a significant step in the process of consolidating military cooperation not only among the four countries, but also in Europe," Italian Defence Minister Beniamino Andreotta said.

He told the ceremony that the force, and a naval partnership known as Euromarfor, "Give our countries an instrument capable of strengthening a common security policy."

The role of Eurofor, whose troops will remain on home soil in their own units, is to conduct humanitarian and peacekeeping missions and will be made available to the 10-nation Western European Union (WEU).

The force can also be put

at the disposal of NATO and the United Nations.

"For our countries this is a commitment of considerable weight and significance which we must support with coherence and determination so that it becomes credible not only operationally but also, and above all, politically," Mr. Andreotta said.

The four ministers were later holding talks which France's Charles Millon said would focus on how to respond to perceived threats to the Mediterranean region.

"It is evident that aside from the main theme we will also swap views on Zaire and other issues," Mr. Millon told Reuters.

He said France still hoped that the U.N. Security Council would agree to set up a "truly international force" to intervene in the area "not only to fulfil a humanitarian mission but also to take part in making or guaranteeing peace."

More than one million refugees from Rwanda and Burundi are at risk of starvation in eastern Zaire where Tutsi rebels are fighting the government.

Eurofor was agreed by the four countries in May 1995 at a meeting of the WEU, the designated defence wing of the European Union, and will take a year to become fully operational.

It is one of a proliferation of combined forces that have sprung up in Western Europe since the end of the cold war, throughout which defence needs remained the preserve of nato and its underlying American military might.

## U.N. defers action on Zaire refugees trek to Goma

GOMA, Zaire (R) — With food shortages in eastern Zaire already acute, the United Nations Security Council Saturday called on U.N. members to lay the groundwork for a multinational force to help feed the hungry.

But the resolution did not authorise an immediate force and it seemed there would be no respite soon for the starving.

In Goma, the biggest east Zaire city captured by rebels in a growing insurrection against President Mobutu Sese Seko, Red Cross officials predicted catastrophe and some 120 exhausted, hungry refugees arrived after walking for more than a week.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who has spoken of "genocide by starvation" in eastern Zaire, was asked by the Security Council to draw up a "concept of operations and framework for a humanitarian task force."

This would bring aid to more than a million refugees from ethnic violence in Rwanda and Burundi and plan their voluntary repatriation. He is to

report to the council by Nov. 20.

Many council members hoped for a resolution immediately authorising a multinational force. This proved impossible after the United States said it was still studying whether it could take part and if so in what way.

Fighting in eastern Zaire has spread death, fear and misery across a vast stretch of territory in the biggest country in Central Africa. Hundreds of thousands of Zaireans are also on the move and food is increasingly scarce.

About 120 Rwandan Hutu refugees arrived in Goma Saturday after walking for more than a week without food or water except what they could scavenge by the roadside.

They had fled the refugee camps of Katala and Kabinda attacked by rebels a week and a half ago but were not prevented by interahamwe Hutu militiamen from making for Rwanda.

"There were people who died of thirst and exhaustion on the way, but we did not see anybody with any traces of cholera yet," said Charles

Kairwa, 32.

All the refugees, who were given biscuits by aid workers on arrival, moved from the centre of Goma to the border with Gisenyi where they were attempting to cross to Rwanda.

Rioting Zaireans seized the last food from a U.N. warehouse in Goma Friday.

Tabo Dufina of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) told Reuters earlier Saturday: "There will be no distribution of food today because there is no food to distribute."

Goma, was captured by rebels a week ago after battles which killed about 500 people, according to local IFRC estimates.

Zaire hardened its tone Friday, saying it would no longer allow the Rwandan and Burundian refugees on its soil.

Most existing camps for Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi in 1994 after Hutu-led genocide of Tutsis have been abandoned in three weeks of battles between rebels and the army in eastern Zaire.

U.N. envoy Raymond

Chretien arrived in Kinshasa Friday night from Rwanda to pursue talks on the proposed multinational force to help refugees dying in thousands in the bush.

All relief aid for displaced Zaireans must be landed in the capital Kinshasa, Zaire said shortly after Mr. Chretien arrived.

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) warned the world of mass death in the next three weeks without aid corridors.

"People are already starving to death and we estimate that by the end of the month over 80,000 children under three will die," Catherine Bertini, WFP's executive director told Reuters.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) estimated in Paris that more than 13,600 refugees died in the last three weeks, not including victims of fighting.

Hutu refugees, Zaireans and demoralised soldiers in Zaire's ragged army roam the east. Some have staggered on swollen legs into Kisangani, up to 500 kilometres from the war zone.

## Australian police probing attacks on Asian diplomats

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police are investigating abusive letters sent to some Asian diplomats and vandalism at the Chinese consulate, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said on Saturday.

The spokesman said the Malaysian consulate in Sydney had received some abusive letters, but he declined to specify their contents.

The spokesman said police were also investigating an incident in which windows were broken at the Chinese consulate-general over a four-day period in late October.

However, the ministry spokesman said it was not known if the incidents were in any way related to the heated racism debate that had engulfed Australia over the past two months.

"We have absolutely no way of knowing (whether this is related to the racism debate) because obviously until the police can find the people who are involved and know their motivation, no one can say what motivated

them," the spokesman said.

"All I can say is we don't know who perpetrated the incidents," the spokesman told Reuters.

"We've handed the matter over to the police and it's up to them to investigate it."

New South Wales state police said bricks were thrown from a sling shot on four nights between Oct. 15 and 18, twice causing damage to the consulate.

Police in the northern state of Queensland said in late October that they were investigating two attacks on visiting soldiers from Singapore.

The news prompted media reports that the attacks were racially-motivated, despite police saying there was no evidence to support that claim.

Independent politician Pauline Hanson sparked the debate on racism and immigration in her first speech to parliament on Sept. 10.

Ms. Hanson said Australia was being swamped by an Asian invasion threat.

## Heavy security, but all said quiet in E. Timor

JAKARTA (R) — Residents reported a heavy security presence in the East Timor capital Dili Saturday but there were no reports of any trouble.

"There's a lot of military around the city," one Dili resident said by telephone.

Residents said they had heard of no problems so far ahead of next Tuesday's anniversary of a 1991 incident in which troops killed at least 50 demonstrators in Dili following the funeral of an anti-Indonesian youth activist.

There was no immediate reaction in either Dili or Jakarta to the break up of a

controversial conference on East Timor in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur Saturday.

A Malaysian youth group allied to Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad's ruling coalition stormed into the conference and broke it up, witnesses said.

As the youths loudly jeered, Malaysian riot police took 36 foreign participants out of the hotel. They were taken in police vans to an immigration detention centre in the capital.

Conference organisers said about 150 foreign delegates from 20 countries

had been expected to attend the three-day meeting ahead of the anniversary of the 1991 killings in Dili.

Students took to the streets in Dili briefly on Thursday after a local man was stabbed by a trader from another island, but police and residents said order was quickly restored.

People recently in East Timor said there was heavy security in place, but a local journalist said there had been no noticeable increase in tension before the Nov. 12 anniversary of the shootings.

Eyewitnesses and human rights organisations estimated up to 200 people died in the incident, labelled a "massacre" by a U.N. rapporteur.

The anniversary in past years has been marked by demonstrations against Jakarta's rule in East Timor.

Indonesian troops moved into the former Portuguese colony in December 1975 and it was named Indonesia's 27th province the following July.

The United Nations has refused to recognise the move.

## Nigeria starts operation to recover bodies of 144 from doomed Boeing

EJIRIN, Nigeria (AFP) — Rescue workers launched operations Saturday to recover the bodies of 144 passengers and crew members trapped inside a Nigerian Boeing 727 plane which crashed two days ago into marshlands north of Lagos.

Federal authorities sent rescue workers and divers to a lagoon half a kilometre from this southern Nigerian town into which the doomed aircraft crashed Thursday in Nigeria's fifth air disaster in less than two years.

Meanwhile in Lagos, Nigerian President General Sani Abacha said Saturday would be observed as a day of mourning for the victims of the crash.

"The federal government will set up a high-powered panel of inquiry to investigate the cause of the crash," Gen. Abacha said in a statement sent to AFP.

Human and mechanical debris have already been retrieved from the boggy area and handed over to police, but the plane is completely submerged in the lagoon, and rescue workers face numerous difficulties in accessing the swamplands.

The lagoon is reachable by a 15-minute boat ride, and federal aviation authorities have called in the help of naval divers to mount the recovery operation.

The three-engined aircraft

was on a one-hour internal flight from Port Harcourt, in the oil-rich rivers state, to Lagos when air traffic controllers lost contact with it.

Authorities needed a day and the help of helicopters belonging to international oil companies based in Nigeria to locate the wreckage. But a lack of speedboats and other rescue equipment prevented the rescue operation from starting Friday evening.

Villagers in Ejirin, and nearby Itoikin, all in Epe municipality, said the plane had burst into flames before it crashed into the lagoon with an explosion-like bang.

The Nigerian Airline ADC, owner of the ill-fated plane, refused to give information on the passenger list when contacted by AFP. But western diplomats said several expatriates, including five Britons, two Belgians, one Frenchman, one Italian and an Israeli national were on the flight.

Two Nigerian directors on the French industrial group CFAO were also on board the doomed aircraft.

The cause of the crash has still to be determined. Local media reported Saturday that the pilot informed air traffic controllers that he was experiencing engine problems and would attempt an emergency landing. The Lagos control tower then lost contact with the plane.

## Khmer Rouge hostage killer gunned down

SRE KLONG, Cambodia (AFP) — A notorious Khmer Rouge commander believed to have ordered the murders of three Western hostages two years ago was gunned down by his own men in late October, recent defectors, including a top aide to the commander, said Saturday.

Nuon Paet, who is wanted for the 1994 murders of Australian David Wilson, Briton Mark Slater and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, was killed when seven of his bodyguards approached him to discuss defecting to the government side, the defectors said.

"He refused and thought

they had come to arrest him and turn him over to the government so he opened fire and killed three of the bodyguards and the other four shot back and killed him," said Lin Chhan, the deputy commander of Nuon Paet's division 405.

Two other Khmer Rouge commanders who had close ties to Nuon Paet, Lo Chhorn of division 305 and Yeang of division 277, confirmed Lin Chhan's account.

The three men spoke to AFP here, 70 kilometres southwest of the capital, at a ceremony in which they and about 720 of their troops were inducted into the army.

Government sources said they had been told Nuon Paet was killed on Oct. 27 at Phnom Kamchay in the southern province of Kampot near his base at Koh Slah but they had not yet been able to confirm the reports.

"The story is difficult to believe because there is no proof," said a senior intelligence officer. "It is also difficult to believe that bodyguards would kill their boss, but we will investigate further."

He added that the three foreign governments concerned are very interested in knowing what had happened to Nuon Paet especially as wild rumors about his fate have sur-

faced since his soldiers decided to defect two weeks ago.

The Australian, British and French governments have demanded that Nuon Paet be captured and tried for the murders, but his whereabouts have been unknown since he escaped a government dragnet shortly after the hostages were killed.

Nuon Paet escaped in late October, 1994, four months after the three young tourists were taken captive in a train ambush near his Phnom Voar (vine mountain) headquarters in Kampot province.



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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

### RJ debt is staggering; what will the response be?

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

SEVERAL DAYS ago, our local press published excerpts of a lecture delivered by Nader Dhahabi, chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian Airline (RJ), at Al Fayha Cultural Club.

The lecture was meant to inform the public about the real state of affairs of the national airline. At first I thought there must have been some mistake committed by the press. It was beyond my wildest expectations to hear that the net indebtedness of RJ is JD 650 million (\$925 million), enough to overburden a country, let alone a small airline which does not own its fleet.

My shock was even deeper when the press quoted Mr. Dhahabi as saying that the current cashflow deficit stands at around JD 40 million a year (\$57 million). Even a printing machine producing a one-dinar banknote every second and operating day and night, non-stop, would fail to cover the corporation's cash deficit, running at around \$5 million a month.

It occurred to me that the news item must have had a mistake, or that the director general of the Royal Jordanian had a slip of the tongue, or said something off the record. However, the airline's newsletter, Al Usra, which is published and distributed monthly by the airline's public relations department, had reproduced the full text of the lec-

ture, reiterating that Mr. Dhahabi revealed the fact that RJ's debt at the end of 1995 was JD 648 million, and that the deficit in its cashflow was JD 40 million a year. It quoted the CEO as saying that such a deficit poses a real threat to the corporation's well-being.

Mr. Dhahabi, a straight forward executive, deserves to be commended for informing the public and revealing the facts to the public opinion and the officials in the government, so that no one might claim in the future that he did not know that the airline was living these difficult circumstances and that the passage of time only means accumulation of deficit at the speed of \$5 million per month.

It is true that we all knew that RJ faced a financial problem. We knew that it was incurring heavy losses, but no one knew that the problem was of such magnitude and that the cash deficit was running at such a high level.

Now that the man responsible for running the airline has put the bitter facts on the table, and confronted everybody with his responsibility, what will the reaction be?

What, for example, will be the response of the government, which removed bread subsidy to reduce its budget deficit by an amount much less than the subsidy needed by the airline to carry on with its mission?

What will be the response of our honourable members of

Parliament who formed a special committee to deal with the airline situation but did nothing more than a tour to inspect sales offices in some beautiful European capitals, namely Rome, Madrid and London?

And finally, what will be the position of the board of directors of the airline, which was charged with the responsibility of directing its policy, the structure of its fleet, the nature of its network, and the economics of its operations.

We wholeheartedly agree with the director general that a deficit of \$5 million a month is a source of real threat to the corporation, but we add that such a sizeable deficit forms a real threat to the national economy as a whole.

Economists are worried about the possible redemption of all or part of the JD 500 million or so held by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza because our Central Bank may be called upon, one day, to repay them in foreign exchange. I wonder why no one seems worried about a larger amount that the Ministry of Finance will inevitably have to pay, which would amount to offsetting the financial gains the central government budget has achieved, together with all the sacrifices which the Jordanian people were called upon to accept in order to make those gains possible.

## Public-private sector partnership in tourism — an ever changing role

By Marwan Khoury

IN THE early 1960s, and on a global scale, it was a tradition that governments would play a major role in tourism development and in the promotion of their countries as tourist destinations. Then, government assistance was vital since large investments were required to establish the basic foundation and facilities needed to open up different areas of the country to tourism. The role of the private sector was minimal as it was not ready to join the government before an atmosphere of confidence in the good intentions of the latter would prevail. The power of the state in those early days was extensive, covering all areas of tourism activity.

Because tourism was perceived as a lucrative source of foreign exchange, governments were not only actively involved in developing their countries' tourism activities but also in closely directing them. Government bodies became hoteliers, tour operators and transport providers; little was known then about achievement assessment

and accountability.

As tourism started to develop, as a result of large investments, the private sector's involvement and input started shaping what became to be known as the second phase of tourism development. This eventually resulted in a boom in hotel development and a rapid expansion of the travel agency and tour operating sectors. At this stage, the state decided to intervene in order to regulate the industry and, accordingly, agency licensing and hotel classification became compulsory in most countries; all this was accompanied by extensive price controls. New taxes were established as well to retrieve some of the original investment in tourism infrastructure.

The third and most recent phase in tourism development saw a basic shift towards market forces and governments started a gradual pull out. This phase witnessed what became to be known as the public-private sector partnerships, especially in the field of promotion and marketing.

Although promotion and marketing are still the main responsibility of ministries

of tourism in many countries, some have granted several bodies authority to promote and, in some cases, market inbound tourism. These bodies, generally known as National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) and which in most cases are executive agencies of the national authorities, are usually public or semi-public.

The current trend in almost all regions of the world is towards semi-public national tourism organisations, involving a partnership of the private sector and central governments and/or local authorities. This partnership is at the experimental stages in many countries; however, some have already worked out functional relationships, like the "Maison de la France," while others, like Sweden, decided that leaving the promotion and marketing of tourism entirely to the private sector was not a practical solution and decided to work out a more sensible association.

What is of interest to note in most countries surveyed, even those with strong non-interventionist traditions such as the United States

and the United Kingdom, is that their promotion budget is financed mostly from public funds.

With the growing climate of liberalisation and privatisation and the political shift to market economies, the private sector started playing an increasingly important role in tourism. The experience, knowledge and foresight of this sector is definitely needed at this juncture; however, the total privatisation of national tourism promotion and marketing does not seem to be the appropriate solution. In the opinion of the Tourism Committee of the OECD, if tourism promotion and marketing were left entirely in the hands of the private sector, development of infrastructures and markets would be unbalanced, with the risk of heightening problems relating to infrastructure saturation and strains on the environment.

The committee listed the following reasons for state involvement, namely, national interest, international competition, sector specificity and market shortcomings. It is not, however, in the commercial

interest of any single group of companies or organisations to invest in promoting the general image of the country; the private sector tends to focus on safeguarding its own interest, thus promoting specific sectors of the industry.

Some industry observers believe as well that the cost of the private sector's funding of national promotion and marketing would eventually be passed on to consumers, in the form of higher prices at hotels, restaurants, car rentals etc.

Jordan, with a high potential for tourism and indeed a much sought-out tourist destination, is in the process to work out a for-

mula to best project its image abroad, a sine qua non of tourist attraction. The realistic solution for Jordan would be to follow the trend and the experience of others and, accordingly, work out a sustainable formula for partnership between the private sector and the Ministry of Tourism. The Jordan Tourism Board can and should be the right venue for the manifestation of such a working relationship.

The writer is Executive Director of the Jordan Tourism Board. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## LETTERS

### Connections needed for connection

To the Editor:

THE GOVERNMENT has spent much time and effort to convince both local and international businesses to come invest in Jordan.

I was one of those who were misled into thinking that the government has finally succeeded in turning the odds in favour of investment. Hence, I started working on setting up my own business in July, though I knew that I was running against the odds.

After the usual merry-go-round at the different ministries in order to get the appropriate documents ready (pursuits synonymous with the inefficient bureaucracy of our country, which alas has not yet changed), I was able to rent a phoneless office in western Amman. I did that because I believed the owner's assertions that the area's telephone lines, had just received thousands of new lines at its disposal, there would be no problem in my getting connected. He had also argued that since three other offices occupied by businesses in the same building had recently closed down, their phone lines must still be available.

I proceeded to Al Abdali post office, filled in triple premium phone line applications, and was told I would get connected very soon.

I have been waiting for those phone lines ever since and have been back to the post office on countless occasions to follow up on my applications; I pleaded with every single employee working there, from the director downwards, to no avail.

I came to the conclusion they have all been — without exception — arrogant, condescending time wasters. On one occasion, after having been assured that "it is going to be difficult" by the director of the post office, because of "technical difficulties with the phone cabinet" supplying my area, he tried to console me by saying that some people had been waiting for a phone line since 1986; then a man walked in with an application for a phone line. Unknown to the director, his application had the same cabinet number as mine, but he was accompanied by a waste; he was told to consider his application done.

So far, I have lost a considerable amount of money and my Italian associate company has threatened to revoke our agreement. I cannot blame them; how is anyone supposed to run a travel agency without having a single phone line? In other countries, phone companies would compete to get customers like myself.

What I really want to say is that people should not be tricked into thinking that starting a business in Jordan is a wonderful, easy-going experience. And officials, who get paid with taxpayers' money and are supposed to be there to serve the public, should be made to treat people with respect.

Few will ever consider investing here seriously for as long as they know that they need a connection to get things done.

Seif Saud, Jordan Eco-Tours, P.O. Box 183764, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## ...over holy sites

LAST week between Jordanian and visiting Palestinian National Authority delegations on the status of Jerusalem holy shrines in Jerusalem were meant, first, to erase any and all lingering suspicions between the two sides and, second, not to make current control of the waqf in Haram Al Sharif a lingering contentious issue. Jordan had made a clear right from the beginning that the sole purpose in maintaining for now its custodianship of the holy places "is to fill any such vacuum as used by Israel to open the 'Hasmonean' tunnel until the city's future is determined to the satisfaction of all parties in the final status talks.

The Washington Declaration of 1994 contained an Israeli recommitment of this "special" Jordanian role, not because Israel wanted it that way but because necessity dictated it. It was a stance that is essentially religious and not political, to begin with. Then all the parties concerned including Israel fully understood that the Jordanian interim role would continue only until the final status of East Jerusalem was negotiated and agreed upon between Israel and the PNA. And finally Israel acquiesced to the clause because including it would ultimately prove to be the right step to take towards true and lasting peace. Amman is on record as fully supportive of the PNA's demand that East Jerusalem be the future capital of an independent Palestinian state and has thrown its weight behind this position on every occasion.

With this in mind, and in view of what has happened since the controversial opening of the tunnel, it was hardly surprising that the visiting PNA delegation, backed by President Arafat, showed full appreciation of what this country is trying to do. Such position shall not only go a long way in saving Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem; it will also remove a major source of friction among our Arab people in the holy city, particularly the waqf officials, who are no doubt continuously subjected to harassment and embarrassment by almost-daily negative reports in Israeli newspapers over the issue.

Both Jordanians and Palestinians must have been satisfied to hear that the minister of information, Marwan Muasher, confirm the meeting of the minds between the government and the PNA when he told reporters at the conclusion of the talks that "Jordan and the Palestinians agree fully on the issue of Arab East Jerusalem." Likewise we took heart from a statement the leader of the PNA delegation, Al Fayh Abdul Rahim, made to the effect that the Palestinians upheld the Jordanian role and expressed support for the Kingdom's efforts to protect the holy sites. The Palestinians "need this Jordanian role in last throughout the interim period until a final solution has been reached on Jerusalem," Mr. Abdul Rahim told Jordanian reporters after his visit.

Last week's agreement should close a sad chapter and an unnecessary side show in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The time now is for building confidence and working together in the peace process from collapse, bringing joint efforts and mutual trust side by side with its hands full in the regressionist tide in Israel on Jerusalem and on the broader range of issues facing the entire peace effort. We need a reconciliation among the Palestinian leadership and the PNA. The PNA's intransigent factionalism does not leave much room for a first and only battle on Jerusalem. The first and only battle on Jerusalem should be between the Arab side and the Jewish side. The PNA's past differences which had been used to play one Arab side against the other for too long.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY WINNING the presidential election and securing a second term in office President Clinton is now free of the pressures of the Jewish lobby and the Jewish press. He is now free to act and take decisions in the Middle East peace process. He has welcomed the peace process and has been instrumental in helping the Arabs and Israelis achieve the peace deals and realises that the present Israeli government's obstinacy is hampering a lasting settlement, according to the paper. There is no doubt that the U.S. president will now create the appropriate climate for renewed efforts to give momentum to the peace process and will live up to his pledges during the presidential campaign that he is determined to help the Arabs and Israel to reach a comprehensive and just peace, said the daily. The paper said that judging from the U.S. president's past record, the Jewish lobby will not be able to influence him. The paper also said that the Jewish lobby will not be able to influence him. The paper also said that the Jewish lobby will not be able to influence him.

## Tutsi — no more 'Mr. Nice Guy'

By Gwynne Dyer

"IF WE pull out, a million refugees will be without assistance," said Stephen Bligh, CARE Canada's relief coordinator in Zaire. "I can't imagine what it will be like. There are very few precedents in the world for that."

That was on Oct. 31. By Nov. 2, the last foreign relief workers had been pulled out of eastern Zaire, and up to a million refugees were fleeing through the mountains and the forest with little food, no clean water and no shelter. The second round of the genocide around Central Africa's Great Lakes has begun.

Yvonne Bekou, Goma: the Zairean cities that face east towards Rwanda and Burundi across the Great Lakes of Kivu and Tanganyika have all fallen to Tutsi forces in a single week. The Hutu refugees who have lived in refugee camps around them since the last round of genocide in 1994 are mostly in panic flight. Hundreds of thousands may die in the next few weeks. And why is anyone surprised?

There was never any doubt that the Tutsi-dominated army of Rwanda, or even the tribal militia of the ethnic Tutsis of eastern Zaire, could make mincemeat of the Zairean army. Zaire's troops are good at looting, rapine and mutiny, but they are so undisciplined and badly trained that the average Lowland street gang could see them off without breaking into a sweat.

There was little doubt, either, that Rwanda's patience was running out. For the past six months, Hutu

tribal militias who were based in the refugee camps in Zaire, basically living off international aid, have been mounting more and more raids into Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi.

Tutsis in both Rwanda and Burundi live in fear of a repeat of the 1994 massacres in Rwanda, when over half a million of that country's Tutsi minority were killed. So in the middle of last month the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda government decided to act.

It threw its military weight behind an uprising of the 400,000-strong Tutsi minority in eastern Zaire, who were facing confiscation of their lands by the Zairean government. The Rwandan government's ultimate aim, scarcely concealed, was to empty the refugee camps filled with Hutu refugees and militias that were strung all along Zaire's borders with Rwanda and Burundi.

That has now been done, and Rwanda is making sure that nobody sets those refugees back up in camps along its border. When the World Food Programme, finding all the roads to the refugee camps around Goma blocked, announced on Dec. 31 that it would fly food into Goma airport, Tutsi forces promptly attacked the airport.

"It appears not to be mere coincidence," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Kigali. The Rwandan capital. The Rwandans were deliberately cutting supply routes so that the refugees could not receive aid. And brutal though that policy is, you can see what led the Tutsis of Rwanda into such ruthless actions.

When the Hutu tribalists who had ruled Rwanda since 1959 started systematically slaughtering the Tutsi minority in 1994, the rest of Africa and the world community did nothing to help. The surviving Tutsis are still alive only because the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), an army of mostly Tutsi exiles, fought its way back into the country and drove the Hutu organisers of the genocide out.

The RPF fought with extraordinary discipline: there were no random reprisals against Hutus, even though it was often fighting amid the mutilated corpses of Tutsi civilians. Back in 1994 it seemed sincere in its desire to create a unified, non-tribal Rwanda in which Tutsis and Hutus had equal rights of citizenship.

But the Hutu leadership deliberately incited its people to flee, spreading false tales of bloody RPF reprisals for the massacres. Many of the Hutu population were quite justifiably afraid, since the Hutu militias had persuaded or coerced a high proportion of ordinary citizens into taking part in the slaughter of Tutsis. So almost two million Hutus (out of a total Rwandan population of 7 million) fled abroad, most of them to Zaire.

The old Rwandan regime and its militia simply moved across the border and took root in the camps, their structures largely intact. The new Rwandan government tried to persuade guiltless Hutus to return, promising they would be victimised, but the militia tended to kill anybody who decided to return home.

Then the Hutu militia forces started raiding across the border into Rwanda, while the U.N. continued to

give the refugee camps twenty times as much aid as it disbursed to the desperately poor government of Rwanda and the genocide survivors there. Two years of playing by the rules has got Rwanda's RPF government precisely nowhere. So last month, something snapped.

The Rwandan government was broke there was not even enough money to hold war-crimes trials. Hutu cross-border raids out of the Zairean camps were becoming a serious threat, and the fellow Tutsi-dominated government in neighbouring Burundi was coming under grave pressure from Hutu guerrilla raids and an economic embargo by most of its neighbours. So it was time for decisive action.

Now it is no more Mr. Nice Guy. The Hutu refugees have been driven deeper into Zaire, and the international community is welcome to help them again if it wants. (There is absolutely no hope for help coming in for a week or more, by which time many will be dead.) And meanwhile, we may be seeing the beginning of a more comprehensive revision of borders around the Great Lakes.

The Tutsis feel their existence is at stake, and the international reward for good behaviour is precisely nothing. Nobody will save them if the Hutus start to win, so they have to save themselves. This offensive may well be the key move in a strategy to carve a Tutsi-majority territory out of Rwanda, Burundi and Zairean lands on both sides of the Great Lakes.

You can see why they might adopt that goal, out of sheer desperation. But who will save the Hutus? For that matter, who will save Zaire?

## Features

### Likud's leap

By Zvi Barell

Some article is about the Likud party's leap...

Smallest... Likud's leap... The Likud party's leap...

### I feel like

By Richardson

I feel like... I feel like... I feel like...

### Israeli soldier

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## Likud's leadership — making the trifle into 'the essence of it all'

By Zvi Barel

The following article is reprinted from the Hebrew newspaper *Ha'aretz*.

THE SMALLEST catastrophe to have affected the peace process was the cancellation of Prof. Shimon Shamir's visit to Irbid — where Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Jordan, was to have attended a ceremonial planting of date palms to celebrate the second anniversary of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, at the invitation of the district engineer. Public figures in Irbid threatened to resort to force if the ambassador appeared, and the governor was compelled to ask the

Jordanian Foreign Ministry to revoke Shamir's invitation — since he was unable to guarantee his safety. The ceremony, at any rate, went ahead as planned.

Jordan is marking the two-year anniversary of the peace treaty with absolute disappointment. The passage of labourers and goods is limited, almost non-existent, due to the passage from Jordan to the United States via Israel, has disappeared because of the inexpensive fares being offered by El Al. The water that Israel promised to give Jordan, albeit in a letter (not in the agreement), has not come. Tourism, after an initial

burst, became one-directional owing to the restrictions that Israel has placed on the granting of visas to Jordanian citizens. The passage of goods from Jordan to the autonomy is almost non-existent because of the security restrictions and the delays affecting the crossing of trucks over the bridge. "In reality," an article in *Al-Dustour* said, "the fruits of the promised peace have never ripened."

Much has been written in Egypt about this month's anticipated Cairo economic conference. An Egyptian spokesman bothered to detail how many international businessmen and journalists will be

attending the conference, and how many telephones will be put at their disposal, but the Egyptian press is demanding that Israel's ability to register accomplishments be curbed — so that the conference does not become a "normalisation" conference with Israel. The Egyptian government does not have to exert itself to appease this community of intellectuals who have never accepted Israel as an ally. Egypt will submit 52 projects, not one of which will involve the sort of regional cooperation that would require even the smallest amount of Israeli involvement.

So be it. No economic conference has yet pro-

duced genuine economic fruit. Such conferences have only been symbolic, as the only Arab forum in which Israel has been a full and equal partner for the first time in its history. Talks on a gas pipeline with Qatar have been stalled. And with what have we been cooking for generations, in the absence of this high-quality gas?

The substance of the peace process, even according to the Madrid Conference vision of the Likud, has been erased in four months. It seems that years have passed since then. The peace process is starting all over again over a few hundred metres of Al Shuhada Street in Hebron,

as if this were the essence of the historical turning point in whose honour Benjamin Netanyahu crossed the table to shake Arafat's hand. As if the strategic capability of the state of Israel lay in this piece of street — the concession of which, it seems, would be like conceding the outpost on Mt. Hermon. Who needs Jordan or Egypt, when you have this desolate street? This is Netanyahu's miniature Oslo.

Without any logical explanation, the pervasive feeling is that if we would only succeed in solving the issue of Al Shuhada Street or the issue of Abu Sanina hill, or if we would just get

the Hebron issue out of our heads, everything would be back in place. King Hussein would hug Netanyahu, Mubarak would come to Jerusalem, the foreign investors would return, the tourists would fill the hotels, the recession would pass, lines for surgery would shorten, the trains would leave on time and the Avraham Avinu neighbourhood would sign a sister city agreement with Oslo.

Without any apparent reason, other parts of the Oslo agreement have also dissolved: the continuation of the redeployment, negotiations over the permanent settlement, definition of the status of the Palestinian

refugees, the future of the settlements and other trifles like the safe passage, the release of prisoners and joint economic cooperation. Jerusalem, at least for one term, will remain the eternal capital of Israel. If it is lucky, it will gain one more eternal term.

That is the greatness of leadership: to extend a generations-old argument and to give the problem of one street — an issue better suited to a local building council — a national-religious flavour and cause the crowd of believers to think that this is the essence of it all.

## I feel like a traitor, says aid worker who fled fighting

By Mark Richardson

"FOR SURE, I thought I was going to die," recalls aid worker Peter Muriuki. He had been kidnapped and forced at gun point by drunken Zairean soldiers to drive into the jungle.

He was finally rescued by other, more sympathetic soldiers, but then the vehicle was surrounded by a large crowd of young men — Muriuki puts the number at more than 100.

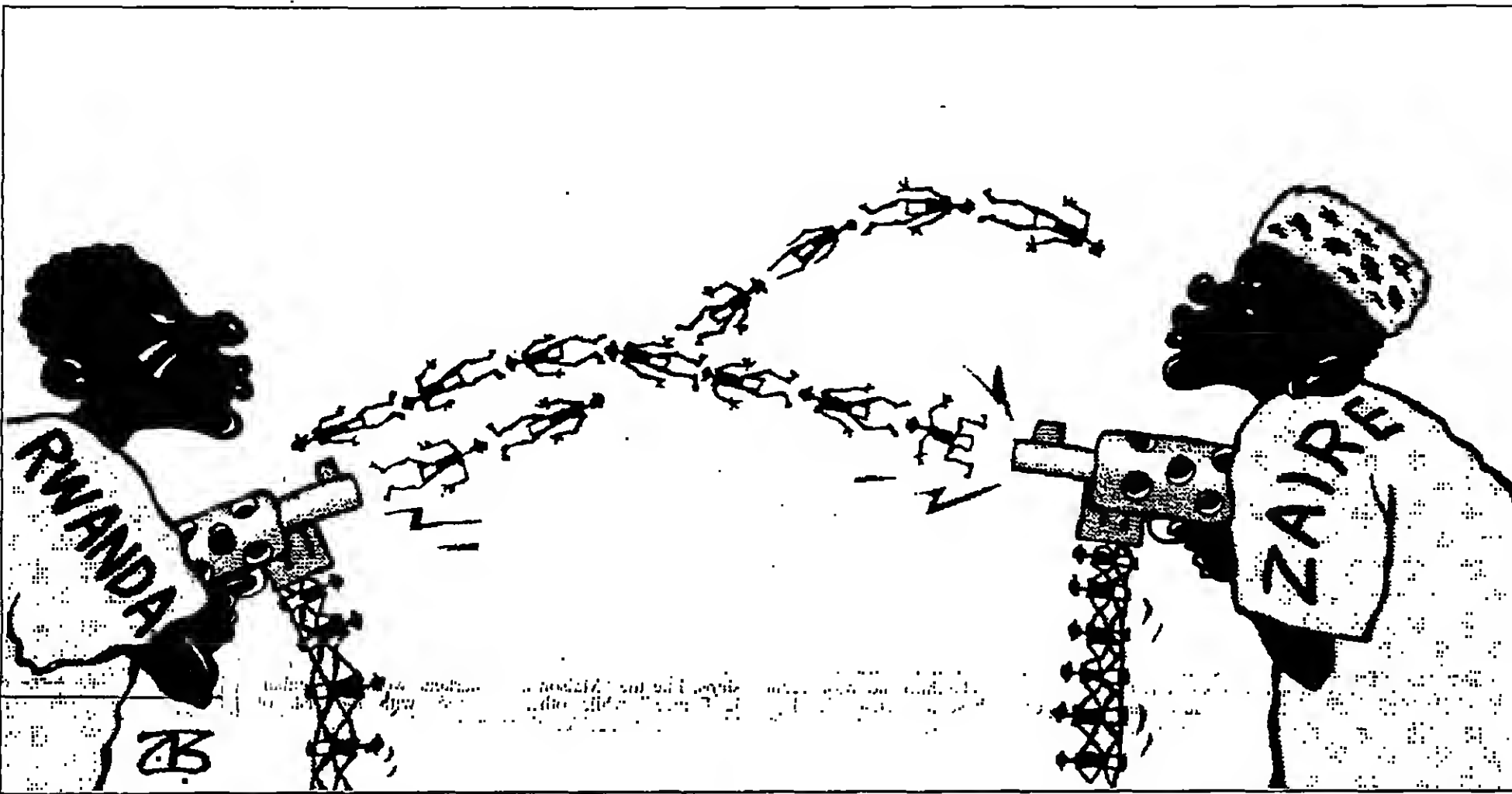
The men were daubed with blood, their faces covered by leopard-skin masks. They claimed Muriuki — a Kenyan — was a Tutsi and that he had to die.

He escaped by accelerating forward, ducking low behind the steering wheel, while the soldiers and young men fired at each other.

Three days later, Muriuki was forced to undergo a similar experience. He and other staff from the international aid charity CARE drove by convoy to the airport at Uvira, eastern Zaire, to catch a flight to safety as fighting between the Banyamulenge — ethnic Tutsi Zaireans — and government soldiers escalated out of control.

They drove through a crowd of angry Zaireans to reach the runway, watching as the mob ran fingers across their throats and yelled for money. The aircraft never arrived, and the dozen vehicles had to return to town.

A roadblock loomed, and stones and spears were



thrown. Escorting soldiers opened fire, killing several Zaireans.

"I wasn't so terrified that time, because I knew I wouldn't die alone," says Muriuki. "Everyone else was lying on the floors of the vehicles, but I was sitting up, watching. There comes a time when you just get confused. I suppose I needed a break by then."

The convoy drove to the United Nations compound, where the aid workers waited in their vehicles for evacuation the next day.

CARE's team leader in Uvira, Roger Aube, was in the convoy. As a white-skinned foreigner, for months he had been comparatively immune from threats of the Zairean military, but that changed in October.

"The soldiers were very angry because one of their colonels had been killed in the mountains, fighting the Banyamulenge," he explains. "They were angry because they'd been sent to fight with no preparation, food or ammunition, and they knew the aid agencies in town had supplies. They looted all the shops and took the young men into the hills to work

as porters.

"They attacked two of us that morning in our car, in town. They told us we were responsible for their poverty, and demanded all our money. One of them was poking around my shirt with his gun barrel, looking for a hidden wallet next to my chest he thought might be there."

"When they finished, they told us to run away,

but I refused to run. That's when I was really scared for my life, but walked away very slowly. And now we're here in Nairobi. I can't go back to Uvira — I've gone too far over the edge to go back there."

Zaire itself has gone too far over the edge for those who have fled the fighting to return to its eastern region in the immediate future. Aid workers who do

go back will probably be assigned to different areas, to avoid stirring personal animosities with soldiers or authorities who feel — rightly or wrongly — that there are still old scores to be settled.

Psychological counselling is provided for international staff who have recently left Zaire. Most are still coming to terms with the fact that

they were flown to safety while local people had to stay behind.

"I feel like we're quitters, like we're traitors, and that we've left our friends and colleagues behind in a terrible situation," says Jack Myer, CARE's former team leader in Bukavu. "But if we'd stayed it would have been stupid and frivolous. I see that now."

"You think about people you never thought of before: the old woman who would sell vegetables beside the road, the man behind the bar at the hotel. They're still there, and I'm in Nairobi. What's happened to them?"

At least one question was answered for Myer at the end of October. A Zairean friend escaped on a special flight from Bukavu airport to arrive safely in Nairobi. At the airport, she had watched as another Zairean was mistaken for a Tutsi by soldiers and killed in front of her. Then a gun was placed against her head.

At the last moment, the soldiers' commander recognised her and ordered her life to be spared. She fled from eastern Zaire. Millions of others — Zaireans and refugees from Rwanda — are still there.

Mark Richardson is a Canadian freelance journalist, currently on assignment with CARE Canada in Africa. He previously worked for the *Ontario Citizen*. This article is reprinted from the *Gemini News Service*.

## Israeli soldiers beat, arrest Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

On Saturday, more than 3,000 Israelis — the men wearing skullcaps and the women long dresses and hats in a show of religious observance — headed towards the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

The occasion was ostensibly a religious one, since Old Testament sections referring to the death of Sarah and Abraham's purchase of land in Hebron were being read in synagogues Saturday.

However, many said they came to the city to show their support for the Hebron settlers. Many oppose the planned troop pullout, that is stipulated in the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreements.

Standing outside the Tomb of the Patriarchs, Ariel Lerner, an immigrant from Chicago, said he was awed by what he said were the deep roots of Jewish history in the city.

"It's very moving to be at this site and see where Abraham bought this land," said Mr. Lerner, who lives in the Jewish settlement of Efrat, about 15 kilometres north of Hebron. "This is...to show the government that we haven't forgotten Hebron."

Palestinians watched in dismay. "They came here to prove that Hebron belongs to us," said Nidal Ghais, who has a university degree in science but is unemployed.

"They are provoking us. But, God willing, we will be victorious, and Hebron will be Islamic," he said. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers and police patrolled downtown Hebron to prevent friction.

At about noon, 400 people, including Palestinian residents of Hebron and supporters of Israel's Communist Party, Hadas, marched towards the Avraham Avinu settler compound, bearing signs "two peoples two states" and chanting "settlers out" and "Hebron is ours."

Troops immediately moved in to break up the protest. Using their fists, soldiers beat demonstrators, including Hashem Mahameed, a Hadas member of parliament. A Palestinian woman who shouted at troops holding her husband was beaten by a female officer, dragged into a jeep and struck again.

Earlier, legislators and activists of the dovish Meretz Party also marched with Palestinians in the city, bearing signs "Let's work together for peace." They returned to the municipality before the clashes began. The group also met with Hebron's Palestinian Mayor Mustafa Natche.

Mr. Natche said he was concerned about threats of violence from Jewish extremists and stressed the need for "cooperation between peace lovers in Israel and Palestine in order to push forward the peace process and go ahead with the redeployment."

Legislator Naomi Hazan said the settlers would not be allowed to prevent the implementation of the peace accords.

"We are not going to allow 48 Jewish families to hold the state hostage, to hold the peace process hostage," she said.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs was open only to Jewish worshippers Saturday. Through-

out the day, visitors formed long lines, checked their weapons at the door and walked through metal detectors before entering the fortress-like building.

Israeli soldiers arrested nine Palestinians protesting close to where the thousands of Jewish pilgrims gathered.

Some of the demonstrators, who included Hadas deputies and militants as well as Palestinian officials, crossed Hebron's old Arab market and approached the tomb, witnesses said.

Israeli troops, drafted into Hebron to guard against expected clashes between militant Jews and Palestinian residents, intervened and arrested nine protesters — including Aziz Amir, Hebron's future governor, they said.

The protesters were demanding the immediate implementation of Israel's delayed military withdrawal from Hebron. "What I saw today strengthens my view

that peace and settlements cannot go together. It is necessary to take away all settlers, starting with Hebron," said Mr. Mahameed, leader of the Hadas group in parliament.

Clinton: Hebron key to Mideast peace

President Bill Clinton said on Friday he believed an agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Hebron would open the way to comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"The first and most important thing we can do is to nail the agreement on Hebron," Mr. Clinton said at a news conference when asked what he planned to do in his second term to push the Middle East peace process. "If we can clear the Hebron hurdle — it has such emotional significance to both sides as well as such practical significance — I believe that will open the door to go on and fulfil all the other challenges that are now before us," Mr. Clinton said.

## King addresses IPI seminar

(Continued from page 1)

The International Press Institute is a Vienna-based organisation, initially founded in New York in 1950. Its membership is made up of approximately 2,000 editors-in-chief and media executives from over 90 countries.

The IPI held a seminar in Israel last year in a similar effort to develop deeper understanding of both the

Arab and Israeli perspectives on the Middle East peace process. Members hope to focus world opinion on the region and support the peace process.

Public opinion must be convinced of the importance of supporting peace in order to make the negotiations easier for the Arabs and Israelis, Johana Fritz, director of the IPI, told the Jordan Times.

## Manila businessmen rising above gridlock

By Ramonito Dela Cruz

Reuter

MANILA — A helicopter flying above Manila high-rise buildings used to be such a rare sight that gawking motorists and pedestrians created a mini-traffic jam.

The Philippines was, after all, a land where the water buffalo was one of the most common forms of transport. Times have changed, however, and now economic progress has produced massive traffic jams and a consequent increase in the number of helicopters buzzing just above the city's main business district.

Manila traffic is now so bad that businessmen regard helicopters as a normal alternative mode of transport, Jose Mari Roa, president of Aircraft Charter Firm Airads Inc, told Reuters in a recent interview.

Helicopter sales are booming and owners of tall buildings now make a tidy income from landing fees for their rooftop helipads.

At present, about 1.5 million vehicles clog Manila. According to official statistics, car sales reached 71,000 in 1995 and are expected to rise 10 per cent annually.

"The market was again growing because of the economic stability... People like to move quicker," Mr. Roa said.

Unfortunately, the boom in car sales has not necessarily led to speed.

Traffic jams now cost the country about 15 billion pesos (\$580 million) a year in lost man hours and hills for repairs, maintenance and fuel, a company proposing a mass transit railway system said in a study.

An elevated tollway and at least three mass-transit rail systems which will traverse the major thoroughfares in the city are being planned to ease congestion in the booming business districts.

"Are we really progressing or are we really in fact regressing?" Rupert Suarez, an officer of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines said.

"It has gone from bad to worse," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of Makati Business Club, which groups most of the country's top executives.

Even executives of the country's top conglomerate, Ayala Corp, which developed the prime Makati business district, are often seen walking along the area's streets between

power lunches and work.

The average vehicle speed around the centre of Makati, where big companies and multinational firms are located, has slowed to 13 km per hour, Ayala urban planner Salvador Tan told reporters.

"We are anticipating it will get worse, if nothing is done about it. We will be worse than Bangkok," Ayala Land Inc President Francisco Licuanan told Reuters.

The average traffic speed in the Thai capital, notorious for its monster traffic jams, is just seven km per hour, compared to 22 km/h in Singapore, Mr. Licuanan added.

Cesar Campos, president of Makati Commercial Estates Association (MACEA), said the place is crowded with cars as well as pedestrians.

About 200,000 people working in Makati bring more than 150,000 cars into the area daily, he added.

Alan Ortiz, president of Dharmala Philippines Inc, warned the situation could discourage investments in the country.

Ayala, the city government and property developers have come up with innovative solutions such as pedestrian walkways, vehicle underpasses and

overpasses, and a mass-transit railway which are to be constructed in and around the business district.

But the whole infrastructure package will not be completed until long past 2000.

"Relief will not happen overnight. Indeed, things will probably get worse, as you're already noticing, before they get better," Ayala Corp senior Managing Director Fernando Zobel de Ayala told the forum.

Meanwhile, the helicopter companies are prospering.

"It's practical for (businessmen) to have their meetings in a hotel or in their own buildings where they have their helipads. They don't have to go through the traffic," Mr. Roa added.

Helicopters also help businessmen to stay clear of the robbers and kidnappers who are another result of economic progress.

"They're saving time and saving on their own security," Mr. Roa added.

Five years ago, his company sold about one helicopter a year. Now, it sells five to seven, said Mr. Roa. Prices range from three million pesos to five million pesos (\$115,400 to \$192,300), making good business sense, he said.



# Jordan's oil privatisation moves face uphill task

By Walid Khadduri

AMMAN — Jordan's initial efforts to privatise the oil sector are facing an uphill and arduous task. The concession agreement awarded by the government to the National Petroleum Company (NPC) has given the firm a very narrow and limited mandate within which to operate, thereby impeding any momentum towards a proper take off.

At the same time, moves to establish a build-operate-transfer (BOT) grassroots export refinery at Aqaba have been shelved for the time being.

NPC was officially established last June as part of the government's policy, encouraged by the World Bank, to privatise public sector institutions or activities. However, the objectives of NPC are quite different from those of other national oil companies in the region.

The company is fully owned at present by the government with the exception of 10,000 shares at a value of JD10,000 out of its capital of JD20 million owned by the Industrial Development Bank of Jordan.

In accordance with Article

Eight of the May 1996 concession agreement, the minister of energy and Mineral resources has full technical and financial control over the company's activities, as well as the right to inspect at any time all its records, correspondence and accounts.

Furthermore, the minister has the right to delegate his authority to anyone he nominates, and in this case he has delegated the authority to the director of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

This means in fact that NPC will function as an NRA subsidiary, which was not the original purpose of the establishment of the firm, nor is this in line with the principle of privatisation under which it was established.

Despite these measures, NPC will operate as a private sector firm. After the initial phase, its shares will be traded on the Amman stock exchange.

In order to facilitate its work and to provide it with cash flow, NPC was awarded an exclusive concession to operate the Risha block for 50 years. Risha is located in northeast Jordan and currently produces 30 million cu. ft/day of natural gas that is supplied to the

country's power grid, providing around 12-14 per cent of Jordan's electricity needs.

The revenue from the gas sale is shared equally between the government and NPC during the initial two year period.

Discussions are currently taking place to increase the price of the gas (which now stands at 30.75 fils per cubic metre) sold to the National Electricity Company. The increase is expected to be around 20 per cent. However, this increase is not expected to have an impact on domestic power prices.

NPC has been given the job of enhancing production from the Risha block during the coming few years with a view to generating additional revenue so as to make it attractive to private investors. However, this latter goal is not going to be easy to achieve.

NPC is not allowed to operate in other areas except with government approval. Even if it tries, it will have difficulty in doing so since the upstream sector in the country is controlled by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the NRA, and NPC is not mandated to negotiate upstream

agreements with international firms.

This authority remains under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Energy as well as the NRA. In fact, the NRA has already signed two production-sharing agreements this year with the American firms Anadarko for the 17,000-sq. km. Safawi block in northeastern Jordan and Trans-Global Resources for a 6,675-sq. km. concession block located in part of the Rift Valley between Israel and Jordan in the Dead Sea and Wadi Araba region.

Both agreements are still awaiting ratification by the Jordanian Parliament during its coming session starting this month.

NPC has been capitalised at JD20 million (\$29 million), with 75 per cent of the assets being in the form of equipment supplied to it by the NRA. This includes three rigs, one of them for workover and the other two for deep drilling. All three rigs need maintenance. So far 32 wells have been drilled at Risha, seven of which are producers.

NPC's board of directors has approved a work plan that gives priority to the initial stage to the utilisation of new technology that

aims at increasing the production capacity of already existing wells, while at the same time evaluating and analysing the available data about Risha.

NPC will not consider any further drilling except after evaluating and analysing the present data thoroughly. Risha's reserves of gas-in-place in the present producing area are estimated at around 240 billion cu. ft., with approximately 178 billion cu. ft. being recoverable.

In the downstream sector, the Jordanian authorities have now shelved an agree-

ment which they signed last June with a very little-known American firm to establish a BOT grassroots export refinery at Aqaba due to the latter's non-performance of the bank guarantee which it was requested to submit. The agreement was initiated on June 16 in Amman by the Jordanian minister of energy and the president of Corporate Holdings of America (CHA) in the presence of the U.S. ambassador.

A great deal of publicity was generated in Jordan when the agreement for the 250,000 b/d refinery was

signed, with headlines trumpeting indirect and direct revenues to Jordan that could top \$200 million per year alongside thousands of job opportunities. However, it was later discovered that the company in question was not able to submit the required bank guarantee. Moreover, no negotiations had been held with any producing country about the question of crude supply.

The writer is executive editor of the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

## Cairo meeting spotlights gamut of Mideast economies

CAIRO — The 15 Middle East countries due to take part in this week's economic conference in Cairo run the gamut from tiny Qatar, a desert peninsula overlooked by history, to regional economic giant Turkey, once the seat of an empire that ruled the Middle East for hundreds of years.

The region includes ancient farming societies like Egypt and Yemen, nomadic and tribal communities transformed by the discovery of oil and pockets of traders flourishing in the economic liberalism of the 1990s.

What they have in common, with the exception of Israel, is economic underdevelopment. They are either low or middle

income developing countries, or oil-exporting countries dependent on one commodity for their wealth.

Only two of the 15 economies have crossed the threshold of \$100 billion a year in gross domestic product (GDP) — about equivalent to the economy of a small European country.

Turkey, the most populous state, tops the list at about \$160 billion, followed by Saudi Arabia at \$125 billion, Israel at \$93 billion, and Egypt at about \$67 billion.

The 15 countries do not include Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria, absent from the conference, which starts on Nov. 12, for political reasons. In the wealth stakes, the

small oil exporters of the Gulf were once among the richest countries in the world, in the same league as Switzerland and the Scandinavian states, but the decline in the real price of oil has eroded their buying power.

Kuwait has the highest per capita GDP — at more than \$16,500 a year in 1995, closely followed by Qatar at \$14,400 and the people of the United Arab Emirates at \$13,600.

That is about 50 times the level of wealth in Yemen, where per capita GDP lags behind at \$280 a year. Mauritania is the second poorest at \$530. Heavily populated Egypt and Morocco, each at just over \$1,000, are close runners for the title of poorest country with a Mediter-

anean coastline.

But most of the governments, even troubled Algeria, claim economic growth rates that would be the envy of developed countries.

Morocco expects its economy to grow 10.3 per cent this year while the latest figures for Turkey and Kuwait are 8.2 per cent, for Jordan and the United Arab Emirates 6.6 per cent.

Levels of inflation and unemployment vary widely across the region, without any obvious pattern other than a concentration of unemployment in the poorer north African states.

Algeria has the highest proportion of jobless, 28 per cent of the workforce in 1995, followed by Jordan at an unofficial 20 to 25 per cent, Morocco at 17 and Tunisia at 15.5.

Turks live with inflation of almost 80 per cent a year, while two Gulf states — Oman and Qatar — say prices fell last year.

### REUTERS REUTERS

#### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.5035	0.8066	1.2640	111.50	1.3315	1512.65	1.6861	5.0895	
DE Mark	0.6651	-	0.4032	0.8406	74.15	0.8853	1005.75	1.1214	3.3846
GB Sterling	1.6485	1.6485	-	2.0833	183.60	2.1950	2493.60	2.7795	8.3900
CH Franc	0.7911	116.80	0.4798	-	88.19	1.0530	1186.24	133.42	4.0249
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3478	0.5438	1.1331	-	1.1836	13.96	151.15	4.5625
CA Dollar	0.7510	1.1432	0.4554	0.9617	1.19	-	1145.17	1.2815	3.8821
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9933	0.4008	0.8835	1358.70	0.8797	-	11.14	3.2624
NL Guilder	0.5831	89.14	0.3590	74.85	66.06	0.7685	698.68	-	3.0178
FR Franc	0.1965	0.2954	0.1191	24.6306	21.89	0.2616	33.12	33.1200	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.30	22.20
W. Texas	23.55	22.75
Bony	23.30	22.20
Dubai	20.48	20.44
UL Gas	217.00	216.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4010	0.16175	0.33717
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40852	0.16517	0.34451
KW Dinar	3.3467	5.03271	2.03004	4.23181
BH Dinar	0.3770	3.98883	1.60901	3.35458
CY Pound	2.1721	3.2658	1.3172	2.7455

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	379.35	379.75
Silver (oz's)	4.84	4.86
Platinum (oz's)	382.95	383.99
AL (3 Months)	1450	1455
CU (3 Months)	1988	1993
Zinc (3 Months)	1060	1065
Lead (3 Months)	733	737
NI (3 Months)	7230	7260

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Period	1	3	6	9	12	Year
USD	5.25	5.37	5.40	5.46	5.56	
GBP	5.94	6.37	6.58	6.43	6.62	
JPY	0.37	0.35	0.46	0.43	0.62	
DEM	3.00	2.91	2.91	3.00	3.18	
FRF	3.30	3.35	3.44	3.48	3.54	
CHF	1.72	1.81	1.88	1.81	1.87	
ITL	7.59	7.44	7.15	7.00	6.87	

Main Equity Indices						
Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York	DOW JONES	6219.82	13.78	0.22	6222.08	6181.07
New York	S&P 500	730.82	3.17	0.44	730.82	725.22
London	FT-SE 100	3910.8	10.4	0.27	3923.4	3906.4
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21201.04	429.83	2.07	21226.7	20770.4
Paris	CAC 40	2205.2	-6.61	-0.3	2223.56	2200.73
Frankfurt	DAX	2739.83	26.61	0.88	2744.8	2738.08

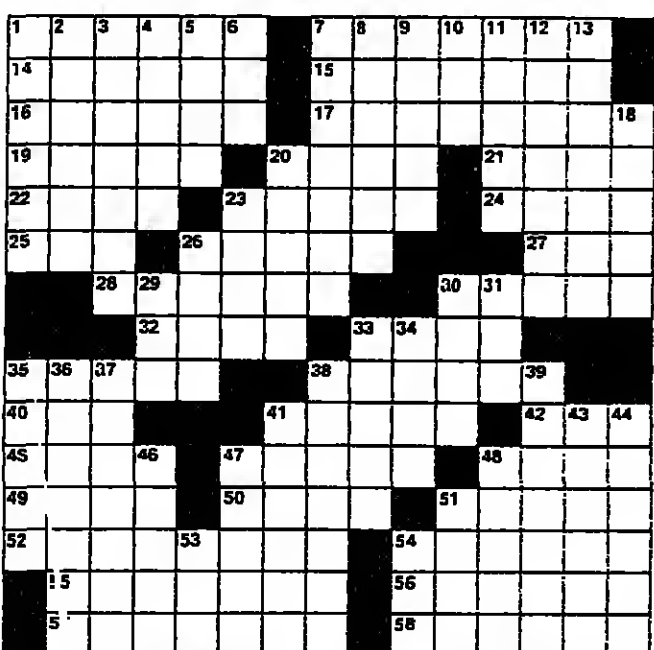
Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (lb/ton)	125.17	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1350	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	312.6	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	143	Spot
Soya (lb/ton)	21.69	Spot
Tea (\$/kg)	116	Spot
Barley (\$/ton)	2.14	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1663	1.1721	
DE Mark	0.4702	0.4726	
CH Franc	0.5593	0.5621	
FR Franc	0.139	0.1397	
JP Yen	0.6343	0.6375	
NL Guilder	0.4191	0.4212	
IT Lira	0.4675	0.4696	

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

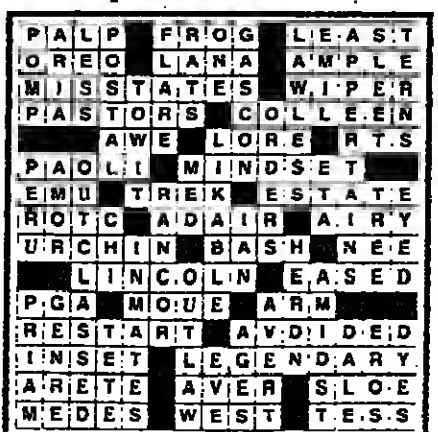
### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Landlord
  - Way out there
  - Connected to a computer network
  - Device to ease breathing
  - Rejoiced in
  - Refuse to change
  - Underwater worker
  - Box office draw
  - Silician mountain
  - Regular
  - Remove the husk
  - Corrode
  - Hideout
  - Nautical term
  - Negative
  - Garden city
  - Antagonist
  - Actor Richard
  - Nudnik
  - Fracas
  - Winner's prize
  - Roadhouse
  - Pat
  - Letters
  - Cupid
  - Severe criticisms
  - Pesky insect
  - Spiritually destroyed
  - African country
  - Fool
  - Computer processible info
  - Packed with good humor
  - Wistly-washy
  - Get even for
  - Backdrops
  - Reamed



by Glenon Petgrave

- DOWN
- Very wealthy
  - Salad addition
  - Slobs
  - Ambulance device
  - Lulu
  - Color
  - Bother
  - Firmly together
  - Sea creature
  - Beachgoer's gain
  - Shrub
  - Sea god
  - Hinge window
  - Not in good shape
  - Coastline
  - Incentive sparkler
  - Aid
  - Expression of disgust
  - Catch sight of
  - Utmost degree
  - Television spot
  - Long, long time
  - Area of study
  - Hostile invasions
  - Sage
  - Sad event
  - Craving
  - More in sight
  - Run
  - Fashioned
  - Trile
  - U.S. unit
  - Donated
  - Variable star
  - Roll
  - Liquid container

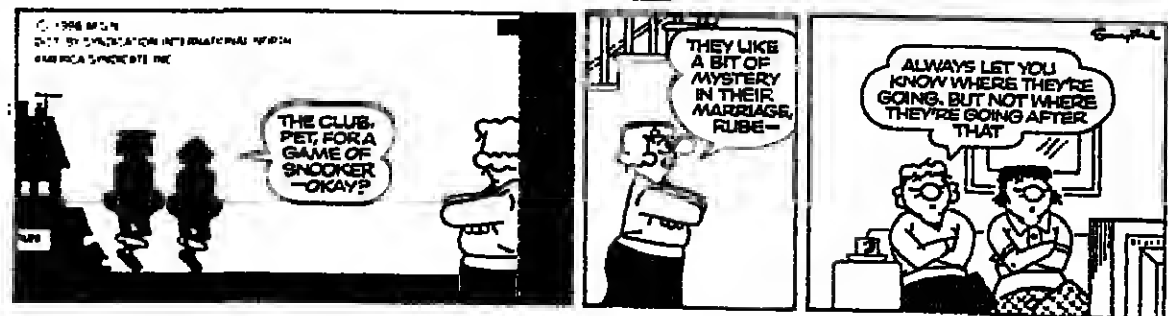


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### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Give more importance to the practical side of your activities today and you get better results. This evening you can get into some career activities which will be quite beneficial if your efforts are noticed by those in authority.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you are more active in personal affairs today, you can get fine results. You can reach your most cherished goals by progressing in your career activities with much enthusiasm upon your part for some project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get busy clearing up any unfinished career activities today, and then make concrete plans for greater success in the days ahead. Later this evening will be good for going out with fellow associates and design some plan of action.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Small changes with preset activities today can spell greater success with them or a bit more work on some project. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your mate to some romantic location and have a special time together.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle matters of an official nature today as well as you have done in previous days, or more so. Be happy this evening in the company of your mate and loved ones and show that you appreciate those who live under your roof.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) That project you have liked so much is about to be completed today; so start looking for another one to occupy your time and efforts. This evening will be good for being seen with close friends and fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have made promises to the one you love today, so be sure to keep them, and handle them well. Confer with that expert in business later tonight and seek his or her advice on how to be successful in the days ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show how well you have handled important matters today to those who count and then state your new ambitions towards those in authority. This evening you can spend this time with your mate and have a romantic time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be certain to finish one segment of your career activities today before going on the next one, and be thorough and precise. Later this evening will be good for accomplishing your tasks with great efficiency and get recognition.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can enjoy an amusement which has proven satisfactory in previous days. Be happy at home this evening with your loved ones and have some fun times together before the stress of the days ahead get too much to handle.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a profusion of duties to attend to in the morning today, however, later place your efforts in a different direction. This evening will be good for spending some quality time and your loved ones in some quiet activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have much shopping and correspondence in attend to today before you can get into that new course of action which interests you. Later this evening you should attend to those career activities which have been put aside.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

### Business

#### Contributors from international

1997 culture organisers describing to complete success. Taking place warm welcome were 308 ex from 25 co them from other w

### Business

#### Tourism transport business loses

TRANSPORT companies and tourism activity has taken a toll in the region because of increased problems that have complicated the decision has sharpened the competition companies that operate a fleet of buses. The Jordan Express Tourism Transporters (JETT) buses while the Jordanian Transport and Transport operators continue 55 buses are run by the

Company. The officials at all three companies on the tourist buses are low cost operation costs in these circumstances the general manager of JETT, said which carry a JD45 million investment. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your mate to some romantic location and have a special time together.

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Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

JUMBLE: THAT SCRAMBLES BY HERN AND HARRY NEVER



## Exhibitors from 25 countries take part in international tourism fair in Greece

By Samir Barhoum  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THESSALONIKI, Greece — The 12th Philoxenia International Tourism Exhibition, the tourist fair of Greece, concluded last week in the Greek city of Thessaloniki.

1997 cultural capital, with organisers and exhibitors describing the event as a complete success. Taking part in Philoxenia, warm welcome in Greek, were 308 exhibitors coming from 25 countries. 252 of them from Greece and 56 from other world countries.

Participants in the fair included associations, unions, societies, educational institutions, air carriers, shipping companies, software houses, tourist agencies, hotels, specialised press, tourist coach companies, car rental agencies, professional equipment manufacturers and other specialists in tourism-related fields.

With Greece, as a host country, having the largest number of exhibitors, a visitor would be amazed at the large number of tourist attractions this Mediterranean country has to offer tourists.

However, it seems the main objective of the Greek government at the moment was not only to attract large numbers of tourists, but also to improve on infrastructure services offered to tourists.

According to Greek Minister of Development Vasou Papandreou, the development of tourism in Greece started on the wrong basis and was in need of remedy at the present.

The minister said in an opening address that the priority of the government was to upgrade services offered to tourists by modernising the total infrastructure of tourism.

"We plan to move into various forms of installations, activities and initiatives that will support quality tourism, to offer programmes and services that will attract the selective, demanding wealthy tourist who is looking for the natural beauty of sea and mountain, entertainment, relaxation, adventure, sports and other activities," she said.

Ms. Papandreou said future programmes entail promoting health and convention tourism as well as sea tourism of the highest standards.

Other speakers at the opening ceremony stressed the need to upgrading tourism but at the same time highlighted the importance of protecting the environment.

Cooperation among European countries and those of the Mediterranean region in promoting tourism has become of paramount importance at the present, they stressed.

Several parallel events were staged on the sidelines of the exhibition, including seminars, congresses, workshops and business meetings. Folkloric shows performed by troupes representing various parts of Greece blended with the pure business transactions of exhibitors and trade visitors.

In its endeavours to promote Philoxenia as a world tourist market focusing on the growth of tourism in Greece and the broad region, the organising committee has launched a wide-scale media campaign before and during the fair and invited journalists from various countries of the world to cover the event.

A press release issued by the organising committee described the turnout of commercial visitors and the public at the fair as high, saying their number has more than doubled compared to last year.

Also compared to previous years, the number of foreign countries participating in the fair was a record high. Twenty-one countries took part in last year's fair, compared to 25 this year.

Jordan did not take part in the fair at the official level, but was represented by the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ).

Director of RJ's pavilion at Philoxenia, Ziad Zetawi, who is director of the carrier's Athens office, said this was RJ's third participation in the fair, which he described as a good opportunity to market the company's services to tour operators and the public in Greece and other countries of the world.

Mr. Zetawi said items displayed at RJ's pavilion aimed to acquaint participants and visitors alike with Jordan's tourist attractions and the carrier's services.

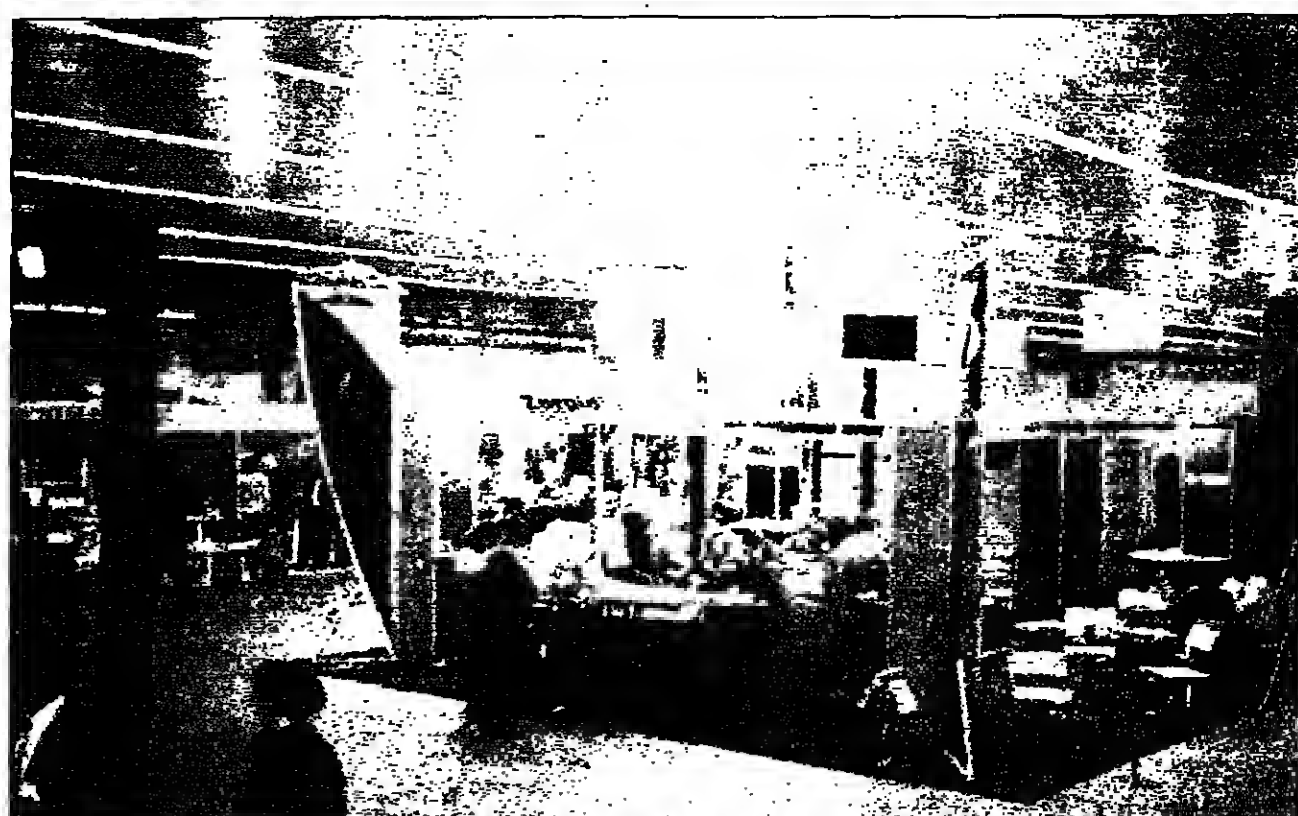
"Our mere presence in such an international fair is a real gain for us in terms of promoting ourselves as a carrier and meeting with tour operators from Greece and other countries," said Mr. Zetawi, who described the number of visitors to the Jordanian pavilion as good.

Unlike Jordan, two other Arab countries, Egypt and Tunisia, were officially represented in the exhibition by officials from their ministries of tourism.

Officials at the two pavilions stressed the importance of the fair in marketing national tourism in the two countries.

Russian and East European countries were heavily represented in the fair, which reflects their keen interest in affirming their presence on the world tourist map.

An official at the Albanian pavilion told the Jordan Times that his country is trying to attract as many tourists as possible to help the small Balkan state generate needed income to revive the economy and build national infrastructure.



A general view of the exhibition held in the Greek city of Thessaloniki

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Tourism transport business loses steam

TOURISM TRANSPORT companies are feeling the recession as tourism activity has taken a down-turn in Jordan and the region because of increased tensions and the problems that have complicated the peace process. This recession has sharpened the competition between the three companies that operate a fleet of 275 tourist buses. The Jordan Express Tourism Transport Company (JETT) operates 140 buses while the Jordan Company for Tourism Investment and Transport operates 80 buses, and the remaining 55 buses are run by the Petra Tourism Transport Company.

According to officials at all three companies, the transport charges on the tourist buses are low compared to the high investment costs in these circumstances. Adnan Mufit, the general manager of JETT, said that the 275 buses which carry a JD45 million investment exceed the size and capacity of the market. As such, he added, three tourism transport companies, which obtained the approval of the Ministry of Tourism to enter the market, have not completed their establishment procedures due to the situation in the tourism sector and the current requirements of the market.

Mr. Mufit stressed that because of the shrinkage in tourism activity and the troubled peace process in addition to the general climate of tension, it is not feasible to set up other companies in this sector. He noted that as a result of the regional tension, nearly 50 per cent of the tourist reservations were cancelled.

Khalid Al Deiri, the assistant general manager of the Jordanian Tourism Transport Company, emphasised that there is strong competition between the tourism transport companies after the increase in the number of buses as a result of the establishment of two new companies. He indicated that the number surpasses the market need especially after the contraction in tourism activity. He said that Jordan's tourism season is usually strong during four months only, and that is a factor that influences the tourism transport sector in the Kingdom.

Mr. Deiri called on the government to allow the tourism transport companies to operate their buses on public transport routes to escape the recession and to enable the companies to continue operations and support the national economy.

The government last year cancelled the concession agreement with JETT and, consequently, two new companies were established with a capital of JD10 million. The JD10 million is one of the requirements that the Ministry of Tourism has listed for setting up new companies. Another requirement is that a new company should have at least 50 new tourist buses according to international specifications.

JETT plans to raise its JD 300,000 capital to JD 10 million by the end of this year. (Al Aswaq).

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"I'm keeping a list of all the things we can do to improve our marriage. We're going to need more memory!"

### JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORNED

YOWLL

RETAIW

UNEAVE

Answer: HE WAS

Yesterday's Jumble: CRACK FEINT OUTCRY AUBURN  
Answer: A young geologist often faces this - A "ROCKY" FUTURE

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## Countdown begins for 50th World Bodybuilding Championships

Record number of 77 countries to take part

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Delegates and officials of the International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB) start arriving here today with only a couple of days left before the 50th World Amateur Bodybuilding Championships open here next weekend.

Rafael Santonja, assistant to the IFBB president, executive director Pamela Kagan, vice presidents Abdul Fahim Sayyed (Africa), Javier Pollock (Caribbean), Paul Chua (Asia), Liaison Director Fawzi Khodari, Technical Committee member Tony Blinn are only a few to arrive by Sunday together with delegates from Canada, Singapore, Yemen, Egypt, Turkey, Ecuador, and Uganda.

The Kingdom's best chance in the championship comes in the over 90-kilogramme category which will be headed by the most experienced of the Kingdom's athletes and a holder of many world-class titles — Mustafa Hasanein.

However another promising entry will be Firas Abdul Malek who lately took part in the World Junior Championship in Poland and finished 15th.

In an interview with the Jordanian press, Abdul Malek said he was proud to be only the second Jordanian (after Hasanein) to have an international ranking.

"Hasanein is my role model. I was watching him on television when he won the European championship when I decided to take up the sport and one day be like him. Now I have a big goal to accomplish."

Abdul Malek added: "I'm training for four and a half hours daily. I know Jordanian fans will be focusing on our results which adds greater pressure in the competition."

As host country, Jordan will be allowed to enter 10 players with only the five best results counting towards the final

overall score when the competition gets underway Nov. 14. The entrants in the rest of the categories came as follows:

65-kilogrammes: Ibrahim Srouf  
70-kilogrammes: Akram Salem, Nasrallah Mahmoud  
80-kilogrammes: Bilal Abu Rajouh  
90-kilogrammes: Ahmad Sa'afeen, Naseem Farid, Khalil Dabaj

Over 90-kilogrammes: Mustafa Hasanein, Hasan Anani, Firas Abdul Malek.

Seventy-seven countries will be taking part in the first world championship to be hosted by Jordan.

The weigh-in and testing will be held Nov. 13 when the International Congress of the IFBB holds its meeting.

Competition will begin at the Sports Palace Nov. 14 and the final round will conclude the championship Friday Nov. 15.

With 77 countries taking part, the competition has set a new record for the number of participating delegations. They are:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, China Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Macedonia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, U.A.E., U.S.A., Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Jordan.

## San Diego's Bochy is NL Manager of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Bruce Bochy, who guided the San Diego Padres to their first Division title since 1984, on Friday was named the 1996 National League manager of the year.

Bochy barely edged Felipe Alou of the Montreal Expos for the award in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Tony La Russa of the St. Louis Cardinals was a close third in the voting.

Bochy, 41, led his team to a 91-71 record and the NL west title in his second season as Padres manager. He is the first San Diego manager to win the manager of the year honour.

Bochy won the award despite appearing on fewer ballots than Alou or La Russa. He received 10 first-place votes, seven second and five third for 76 points.

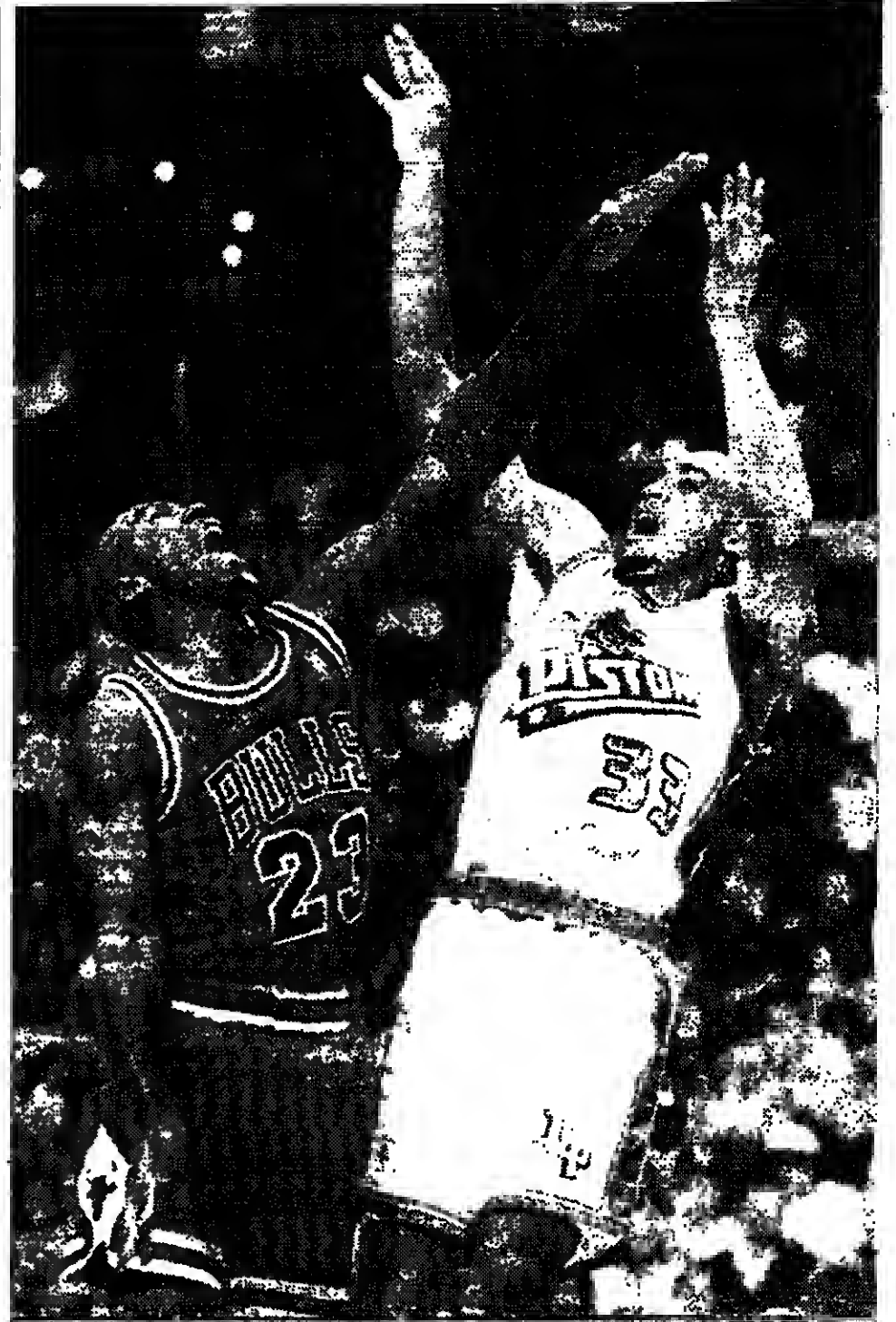
Alou, who won the award in 1994, finished with 74 points on eight first-place votes, nine second and seven third from the 28-member voting panel, according to the 5-3-1 points system.

La Russa was named first on seven ballots and finished with 69 points. Bobby Cox of the national league champion Atlanta Braves was the only other manager to receive first-place votes with three.

Alou fell short of making the playoffs but kept his young team in contention until the final weekend of the season. The Expos were 88-74 and finished in second place in the east, eight games behind Atlanta.

La Russa, who won the honour in the American League with Oakland in 1992 and the Chicago White Sox in 1983, guided the Cardinals to an 88-74 record and the Central Division title in his first year in St. Louis. It was the first division crown for the Cardinals since 1987.

Joe Torre of the world series champion New York Yankees and Johnny Oates of the Texas Rangers shared the American League manager of the year award, which was announced Thursday.



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (L) fouls Detroit Pistons' Grant Hill (R) as they go for the rebound, during game action, at Joe Louis Arena. Chicago defeated Detroit 98-80 (Reuters photo)

## Stoudamire triple helps Raptors devour Lakers

TORONTO (R) — Damon Stoudamire had a triple-double and hit a key three-pointer down the stretch as the Toronto Raptors held off a fourth-quarter charge by the Los Angeles Lakers Friday for a 93-92 victory.

Stoudamire had 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the upstart Raptors (2-2). Walt Williams added 20 points for Toronto, who led by as much as 13 before seeing their lead evaporate in the fourth quarter.

"Coach Darryl (Walker) wanted me to go right at them and make something happen," said point guard Stoudamire. "I kind of let the game flow to me and hit big shots down the stretch. You're always nervous when the game is close. We hung in there and got the victory."

Shaquille O'Neal scored 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Lakers (3-2), but could not convert from the baseline at the buzzer.

"We didn't play that well," said O'Neal. "We made a lot of turnovers. I was wide open on the last play, but the ball just didn't come far enough."

Los Angeles had the first basket of the game to make it 2-0 but would never have the lead again.

At Detroit, Ron Harper drilled a pair of three-pointers in a third-quarter run as the Chicago Bulls matched the best start in franchise history with a 98-80 victory over the Detroit Pistons in a battle of central division unbeats.

Toni Kukoc, Scottie Pippen and Luc Longley scored 16 points apiece and Michael Jordan added 15 points and eight assists for the Bulls, who matched last season's 5-0 start.

Chicago extended its win

streak over Detroit to 17 games.

"We're like two ships passing in the night," said Jordan. "They're trying to head back in the direction where we are." Joe Dumars scored 22 points and Grant Hill 21 for Detroit.

In Tokyo, Penny Hardaway had 29 points and seven rebounds and the Orlando Magic survived a fourth-quarter scare by the New Jersey Nets to post an 86-82 victory and a sweep of the two-game NBA Japan games.

Horace Grant added 18 points and Nick Anderson 15 for the Magic, who defeated New Jersey for the sixth straight time.

In Denver, Dale Ellis scored nine of his 23 points in a 12-2 run to end the game as the Denver Nuggets rallied for a 94-91 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

In Cleveland, Bobby Sura had 15 points and a career-high 13 rebounds and Bobby Phillips scored 12 points in his first game of the season as the Cleveland Cavaliers posted an 88-72 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Greg Anthony scored 13 points to pace Vancouver, who have dropped their first five games. The Grizzlies shot just 31 per cent from the field.

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning scored 23 points to lead a balanced attack as the Miami Heat handed the Milwaukee Bucks their first defeat of the season 101-89.

Vin Baker scored 27 points and Glenn Robinson added 13 for the Bucks, who lost for the first time in four games under new coach Chris Ford.

In Boston, Clarence Weatherspoon keyed a decisive third-quarter run with

seven points and rookie Allen Iverson poured in 32 points as the Philadelphia 76ers won for the first time this season, defeating the Boston Celtics 115-105.

The Sixers, who had lost their first three games, scored 18 consecutive points late in the third quarter, turning a 14-point deficit into a 79-75 lead.

At Washington, Tony Smith scored 20 points and Anthony Mason added 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Charlotte Hornets beat the Bulls 102-87 for their first road win this season.

Chris Webber had 19 points and Rod Strickland and Juwan Howard added 14 apiece for the Bulls.

In San Antonio, Shawn Kemp scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Gary Payton added 16 points to spark the Seattle SuperSonics to an 87-75 win over the struggling Spurs.

Seattle (3-2) scored the first seven points of the game and never trailed. Sean Elliott and Avery Johnson topped San Antonio (1-4) with 15 points each.

At Los Angeles, Patrick Ewing scored five of his 20 points in overtime and grabbed 19 rebounds as the New York Knicks scrambled to an 88-81 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Knicks scored the first four points of overtime on a pair of free throws by rookie John Wallace and a 14-foot jumper by Charles Oakley for an 81-77 lead.

After Charles outdunked to lift the Clippers within 81-80, Ewing converted a three-point play to restore the Knicks' four-point lead. He added two free throws with 9.6 seconds remaining for a comfortable 86-81 cushion.

## Spectre of racism haunts Italian soccer

MILAN (AFP) — The spectre of racism returned to haunt Italian football at the weekend and again targeted England midfielder Paul Ince.

Ince, along with his French teammate Jocelyn Angloma and Dutchman Aron Winter, faced racist abuse during Sunday's 1-0 victory at Verona, although most of it was reserved for the Englishman.

At the final whistle, Ince and Angloma went and applauded the home fans who had been taunting them.

However things turned nasty afterwards as a group of about 300 Verona fans behind a barrier taunted Ince with racist abuse as he smoked a cigarette outside the team coach.

Ince nonchalantly stood his ground but winter promptly got off the coach and used his fingers to spell out the 1-0 result. The gesture sparked fury from the Verona supporters, who retaliated by lobbing coins and plastic bottles at the two Inter players.

Police immediately intervened to restore calm and later escorted the Inter coach as far as the motorway back to Milan.

Sadly, since arriving in Italy from Manchester United in 1995, Ince has been no stranger to suffering racist insults.

Just three weeks ago, Piacenza defender Gianpietro Piovani shouted racial abuse and then feigned a heavy blow from the Englishman which led to Ince being sent off.

Ince was also subjected to racial abuse from the crowd in a league match against Cremonese last season, prompting profuse apologies from both the club and the city's mayor.

## Overwhelmed Coppell quits Manchester City after 33 days

LONDON (R) — The pressure felt by managers within modern football was emphasised when Steve Coppell quit Friday after only 33 days in charge of Manchester City.

Coppell, 41, admitted he was completely overwhelmed by the plight of a big-city club struggling in the first division after being relegated from the Premier League last season.

He appeared at a resignation news conference alongside chairman Francis Lee to say: "I'm not ashamed to admit that I have suffered for some time from huge pressure I have imposed upon myself, and since my appointment this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job the way I would like to."

"This situation is affecting my well-being. I'm extremely embarrassed

by the situation and I would like to apologise to Francis Lee and his board, who have done everything in their power to help me."

Lee, an England player of the 1960s and 70s before becoming a successful businessman, said: "I have spoken to him two or three times every day this week. He is better today than on Monday or Tuesday. But he has insisted on going."

There was sympathy within the English game for Coppell, widely described as "too nice to be a manager".

The respected former England coach Don Howe said: "Steve loves his football but, obviously, having gone back into management he has found it too demanding."

Professional Footballers' Association Chief Executive Gordon Taylor was stunned by Coppell's decision. He

said: "It illustrates the kind of pressure people are under in football."

As a player with Manchester United, Coppell won 42 England caps on the wing between 1978 and 1983 before a knee injury forced him to retire at 29.

A university graduate (a rarity in English football) and one of the game's deep thinkers, he was expected to make an impact as a coach.

He enjoyed some success as the league's youngest manager at Crystal Palace, leading them to the 1990 F.A. Cup final and forcing a replay against Manchester United before losing.

He also took Palace into the Premier League but they were relegated in 1993.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Commentator O'Sullivan to retire after 50 years

LONDON (R) — Peter O'Sullivan, the doyen of British horse racing commentators, is to retire next year. O'Sullivan, whose distinctive tones have been synonymous with the sport for half a century, said Saturday he planned to call it a day after next July's glorious Goodwood meeting. O'Sullivan, 78, started commentating on racing for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in 1947. By the time he retires he will have covered the grand national and Royal Ascot 50 times. "If I get that far, next year's will be my last national," he said. "I don't want to out-stay my welcome but I would also like to get 50 Royal Ascots and Goodwoods under my belt."

### Rios and Berasategui reach semis

SANTIAGO (AFP) — Marcelo Rios of Chile, Spain's Alberto Berasategui and Felix Mantilla and Argentina's Hernan Gumy reached the semifinals of the ATP event Friday. Rios defeated Brazil's Fernando Meligeni 6-3, 6-2. Alberto Berasategui put out Uruguay's Marcelo Filippini 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Mantilla scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over Oliver Gross of Germany. And Gumy beat Emilio Alvarez of Spain 7-6, 7-6.

### Bradford want Waddle to extend stay

LONDON (AFP) — Chris Kamara, the boss of struggling English first division side Bradford City, is to have talks with Chris Waddle Monday to try to extend the former England winger's stay at the club. The 35-year-old former England player, who starred in his team's 3-3 away draw at Huddersfield Friday, is currently on a 'month-to-month' deal with Bradford City. "Obviously I want to keep him," Kamara said, adding: "People look far too much at birth certificates in this game. I played in the Premiership until I was 37, Gordon Cowans is still out there for us at 38." Waddle scored the first of Bradford's three first-half goals after just six minutes.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>  Philadelphia 1 Tom Cruise ... in <b>MISSION IMPOSSIBLE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Philadelphia 2 <b>SABRINA</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 <b>PLAZA</b>  <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> (In Dolby stereo) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45	CINEMA TEL:677420 <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> (In Dolby stereo) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>DISCLOSURE</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Ammann Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275  Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimah &amp; Hussein Tubishat</b> Play starts 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155  <b>PRESENTS</b> <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b> At 8:30 p.m. Theatre is closed Friday & Saturday For reservation please call 625155 - 640155





Monica Seles concentrates on the ball as she gets ready to return a backhand during her match (Reuters photo)

## Seles wins, Davenport loses in Oakland quarters

OAKLAND (R) — Top-seeded Monica Seles stormed back in the second set Friday to defeat the surprisingly stubborn Kimberly Po, but second seed Lindsay Davenport was not so resilient.

Seles trailed 4-2 in the second set but broke fellow-American Po in her last two service games to claim a 6-2, 7-5 victory. Davenport, the Olympic champion, was ousted by big-serving Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-4.

Seles advanced to the semifinals against Romania's Irina Spirlea, a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Russian Elena Likhovtseva. Seles beat Spirlea in last week's quarter-finals at Chicago.

Schultz-McCarthy will go against Switzerland's Martina Hingis the other semifinal.

Seles said she was fortunate to end her match against Po in straight sets.

"Kimberly was playing really well," Seles said. "I was lucky to pull out that second set. She was playing really low and ran down a lot of balls. She surprised me a little bit."

Schultz-McCarthy felt the key in beating Davenport was getting off to a quick start. "It was being pumped up, and most importantly getting ready for the match," said Schultz-McCarthy, ranked 12th on the women's tour. "I've been doing a lot of footwork drills and it's been paying off."

Schultz-McCarthy served eight aces and won 75 percent of her points on first serve. "I always serve better as the tournament continues," she said. "Normally I serve better against the top players."

Davenport said: "She hits her serve unbelievably well and she didn't give me a lot of double faults. She volleyed well. I was impressed with the way she played."

## Parma confirm Zola moving to Chelsea

PARMA, Italy (R) — Striker Gianfranco Zola signed for Chelsea on Friday, becoming the English Premier League club's third Italian player.

"The separation is by mutual agreement," said Parma's general manager Michele Uva, confirming the 30-year-old Sardinian's move from the Serie A club to London. "The deal between Zola, us and Chelsea has been finalised to everyone's satisfaction."

There were no immediate details of his contract but it was reported to be for two years and worth between 11 and 12 billion lire (\$6.6 to \$7.2 million) rather than the 13 billion lire (\$7.8 million) earlier reported by television.

Zola will join compatriot Gianluca Vialli and fellow international Roberto Di Matteo at Chelsea, managed by Dutch former AC Milan star Ruud Gullit.

He is the third player in a year to leave Parma for England.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla went to Newcastle and Swede Tomas Brodin to Leeds. Zola joined Parma in 1993 from Napoli but has disagreed with new coach Carlo Ancelotti over tactics.

Zola said he had problems with Parma, mainly because Ancelotti saw him as a right-sided midfielder whereas he wanted to play as an outright striker.

Parma has on-form Italian international Enrico Chiesa and Argentine Hernan Crespo, both signed in the close season, as its first-choice strikers in a two-pronged attack.

Zola, 30, was Diego Maradona's understudy when Napoli won the league title in 1989-90, his first season at the club after joining from minor league clubs in his native Sardinia.

The stocky player has been a stalwart of the Italian national team for years. He has scored 49 goals in 102 league games for Parma, winning the UEFA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup.

## England overpowers Georgia in World Cup qualifier

TBILISI (AFP) — Two first-half goals saw England easily overcome Georgia in their Group Two World Cup qualifier here Saturday.

It took only 15 minutes for Teddy Sheringham to open the scoring when he broke into the area and flashed the ball in off the outside of his right foot.

Les Ferdinand all but hurried the home side when he got England's second in the 37th minute with a vicious left-footed shot.

It was a sweet victory for England manager Glenn Hoddle who pulled out a masterful battle plan.

The win maintained England's 100 per cent record under their new young coach and sent them three points clear of rivals Italy at the top of their qualifying group.

Hoddle had given a first start to Tottenham defender Sol Campbell and restored David Batty to the starting line-up for the first time in 17 months, and the pattern looked perfect.

Georgia had few chances against an English side that was in complete control.

One rare scare for England came when Temur Ketsbaia went tumbling over as he accelerated past Tony Adams on to a Georgi Kinkladze cross but he was the only Georgian who tried appealing for a penalty.

David Beckham picked up his first booking of the qualifying tournament in the second-half for a needless trip from behind on Gocha Jamarauli, clearly frustrated by the earlier tackle on him.

By now, England had completely killed the game with the Georgians looking a spent force and with their patriotic supporters beginning to whistle their derision.

Batty, who had an excellent game, nearly capped it with a goal, but sent his 20-yard drive from Gascoigne's pass into the midriff of keeper Irakli Zoidze.

Ten minutes from the end, Arsenal's Ian Wright completed his return to the international scene when he was sent on as a substitute for goalscorer Ferdinand.



Paul Gascoigne (R) of England fights for the ball with Nugzar Lobjanidze of Georgia, during their World Cup qualifying match in Tbilisi November 9. England won the match 2-0 (Reuters photo)

It was Wright's first appearance in an England shirt since he played against Romania two years ago. The striker had one chance to get on the score-sheet when he was set free on the left but his shot was blocked by Zoidze and then booted away by the Georgia defence.

In the final minutes Georgia pushed desperately for a consolation goal but the tiring English defence, led by Adams, held firm.

## Norman injury puts Martin in Stockholm Open final

Ferreira, Enqvist battle for ATP championship berth

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Second seed Todd Martin advanced into the final of the Stockholm Open Saturday 6-3, 3-0 when Swedish opponent Magnus Norman was forced to quit with an ankle injury.

The win puts the 26-year-old American into a Sunday title match against the winner of Saturday night's second semi-final between defending champion Thomas Enqvist, seeded third, and fellow Swede Thomas Johansson.

The 41-minute victory for Martin keeps alive Enqvist's chances of reaching an alternate's place at the Nov. 19-24 ATP Tour World Championships in Hannover, Germany.

The 22-year-old will need to beat Martin Sunday for the \$112,000 top prize if he is to claim the substitute's place in the chase for the eight-man Hannover field.

According to ATP Tour officials, beating Martin will give Enqvist enough bonus points to qualify ninth, no matter what happens to contender Marcelo Rios of Chile, top seed this week at home in Santiago.

South African Wayne Ferreira, the third and final man with a chance as alternate, can only take the spot if both Enqvist and Rios lose.



Todd Martin of the U.S. goes for a backhand (file Photo)

Norman, one of three Swedish wild card entries who reached the quarter-finals during the final event of the regular tour tennis season, hurt his ankle Friday during a quarterfinal win over American Vince Spadea.

"I woke up feeling pretty good today," said the 20-year-old, ranked No. 106. "But I realised that I couldn't drag my foot on the serve or put my full

weight on it without pain."

Martin began the contest in front of 4,600 disappointed Swedish fans by taking a 3-0 lead.

But while the challenger fought back to earn a break of his own and level at 3-all, the more experienced seed quickly regained the momentum to sweep the set with three winning games capped by his third

ace of the afternoon.

Norman lost serve to start the second set and went down to 0-3 before walking to the chair umpire and retiring.

Martin has not won a title since January in Sydney. His only previous encounter with Norman came during a doubles exhibition, when the promising Swede was only 14 years old.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH

#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

47 ♠ Void ♠ A K 10 7 6 5 ♠ A K 9 8 5 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1♠ 4♠

What action do you take?

A - From the auction, your partner should expect you to have at least 11 cards in the minor suits, hence you could easily be void in spades. Therefore, it is up to him to decide what to do. Pass. If partner passes, be happy that you deliver a cornucopia of four tricks in high cards, a trump and a void in the enemy suit.

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

48♠ 47 ♠ 9♠ A K Q J 7 6 5 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1♠ 4♠

What do you bid now?

A - With your excellent seven-card suit, it might seem right to jump to game. However, your distribution is not as good as you think. You have four in the minor suits, but you could easily have three inescapable losers. We would opt for the slight underbid of four clubs and see what develops.

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

44♠ 45 ♠ A K J 8 7 ♠ A 10 9 4 ♠ 8 5

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A - There are three possible answers, all of which have a merit: A jump to two no trump; one heart; and one diamond. While we have no strong objection to any of these, we have a slight preference for a quiet one diamond. That should give us the best chance to reach the optimum spot, which conceivably could be a club slam!

Q. 4 - East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold:

44♠ 45 ♠ A K J 8 7 ♠ A 10 9 4 ♠ 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1♠ 4♠

What action do you take?

A - You have a better-than-minimum hand capable of playing in any one of three suits. Therefore, we suggest you double, which is for takeout because partner has not yet bid. That has the advantage of enabling partner to convert to penalties should North have little but length and strength in the enemy suit.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

44♠ 45 ♠ A K J 8 7 ♠ A 10 9 4 ♠ 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1♠ 4♠

What do you bid now?

A - Slam possibilities are very real, especially since your king of clubs is surely the equivalent of an ace. We suggest that you make a slam try now, below game level, by bidding four clubs. If partner can do no more than correct to four spades, toss in the towel and pass.

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

44♠ 45 ♠ A K J 8 7 ♠ A 10 9 4 ♠ 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 1♠ 4♠

What action do you take?

A - A promising hand has suddenly become enormous. You certainly must be safe at six hearts and even a grand slam is not out of the question. To initiate the investigation, cue-bid four spades now, planning to follow up with another cue-bid in clubs.

### JORDAN TIMES TEL: 699634, 684311

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A labourer pours oil onto a torchlight at a procession to celebrate the dismissal of the Benazir Bhutto government in central Karachi Saturday. The procession was organised by the Progressive Workers Federation and was participated in by various labour unions including the dockers, steelworkers and seafarers unions of Karachi (Reuters photo)

## Bhutto to challenge dismissal in court

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is to file a writ petition with the supreme court next week against her dismissal four days ago, sources close to the deposed leader said Saturday.

Ms. Bhutto, who has vowed to fight a legal battle against her abrupt sacking by President Faruq Ahmad Leghari on Tuesday, has been holding consultations with legal aides at her former official residence here.

A draft is being finalised and the petition is "most likely" to be submitted to the supreme court by Tuesday, a source said.

Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto and dissolved the national assembly, citing, among the reasons for the drastic action, corruption, misrule and lawlessness resulting in thousands of deaths during her government's three-year term.

Mr. Leghari set new elections for February under an interim government headed by Malik Meraj Khalid, a former speaker of the national assembly.

Ms. Bhutto has rejected the accusations made against her by Mr. Leghari and demanded that the president resign to ensure fair and impartial polls.

Sources said the deposed premier was engaged in consultations with her party colleagues and allies to devise a political strategy for the run-up to the next elections.

A major daily, The News said Saturday the former prime minister was likely to kick off a tour of the country soon in a bid to muster popular support against her "unjust" removal.

Ms. Bhutto has not yet moved out of her former official residence, the prime minister's house, but is expected to leave the premises sometime next week. The caretaker government allowed her 10 days to move.

Meanwhile her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who was placed under custody on the day Ms. Bhutto was dismissed, remains under detention at a government guest house near Islamabad.

Ms. Bhutto was allowed to see Mr. Zardari on Thursday, but reports Saturday said her request to meet her husband again the next day was refused.

The caretaker administration has not yet specified any charges against Mr. Zardari, who is reportedly in custody under a law allowing preventive detention of suspects considered a threat to public peace.

Mr. Zardari had a high-profile role in the ousted government and had been a constant target of corruption allegations by opponents who are now demanding that the interim government prosecute him.

Meanwhile, the caretaker government has set up a special anti-corruption cell

in the interior ministry to deal with corruption complaints.

Official sources said a law would be enacted in the coming days to prosecute those accused of graft and financial irregularities as part of a plan to disqualify the corrupt from participating in the election.

The law will also lay down a mechanism for recovery of outstanding loans from politicians and others, they said.

Caretaker Premier Khalid has started meeting political leaders, with a first meeting in the eastern city of Lahore on Friday with Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister and arch political foe of Ms. Bhutto.

He reportedly said after the meeting with Mr. Sharif that he would send a message to Ms. Bhutto and also meet her if she agreed to the talks.

Mr. Agar resigned as a direct result of the scandal that has unfolded since a police chief, a fugitive mobster and a former beauty queen died in the same car in a traffic accident last weekend.

Mr. Agar said he had resigned to enable a thorough investigation of the accident.

The main opposition Motherland Party (ANAP) urged Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and Ms. Ciller on Saturday to resign.

Ms. Ciller had denied that confidence in the legislation and the state. The source of these rumours would be dried up regardless of their origin," she added.

Ms. Aksener, a woman MP from Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), took office on Friday after former minister Mehmet Agar resigned following a scandal pointing to links between security officials and a gangster wanted for political killings and drug dealing.

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## Damascus optimistic about peace process after Clinton's reelection

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria on Saturday welcomed the reelection of U.S. President Bill Clinton and said it expects him to revive the faltering Middle East peace process during his second term.

"The American declaration that peace in the Middle East is a priority is satisfying," the official newspaper Tishrin said. "It shows the determination of the United States, during Bill Clinton's second term, to continue to play an active and intensive role in relaunching the peace process."

Mr. Clinton, in response to a congratulatory message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, said Friday that achieving peace in the Middle East would be one of the top priorities of the White House.

The U.S. president added

that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Assad in eliminating the threat of war in the region and achieving peace between Israel and Syria.

Tishrin said a reelection of Clinton is "free from electoral constraints and can take vital decisions in favour of peace and stability" and called on him "not to waste any time."

Another official newspaper, Al Thawra, noted Mr. Assad's praise of Mr. Clinton at a news conference on Monday during which the Syrian president described his American counterpart as "enthusiastic about the peace process."

Negotiations between Syria and Israel have been frozen since February but Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa hinted Friday they could resume at the beginning of

next year.

"We cannot say how and when" these talks would resume, but "it is probable that the (peace process) will gain momentum early next year," Mr. Sharaa said, following talks with his French counterpart Herve de Charette in Paris.

Damascus is demanding the return of the Golan Heights as a condition for any peace treaty with Israel, which captured the strategic plateau in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and annexed it 14 years later.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out a land-for-peace settlement with Syria, unlike the previous Labour government which had hinted some kind of pull-back on the strategic heights might be negotiated.

## Syria, France discuss Middle East peace

PARIS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa discussed efforts to revive the Middle East peace process with President Jacques Chirac on Saturday and urged Israel to back up words about peace with actions.

"President Chirac confirmed that France would continue to cooperate with us to push forward the peace process, to relaunch it and put it on the right track," Mr. Sharaa said after meeting Mr. Chirac at the Elysee Presidential Palace.

"There are a lot of declarations by Israeli leaders... These declarations are mainly positive, but the important thing is to translate them into actions, stick to the principles of the peace process and start where we left off," he said.

Mr. Chirac received a hero's welcome in Syria when he toured the region last month but alienated the Israeli right by pleading for a Palestinian state, a bigger European role in peace talks and the return of occupied Arab land to Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. Sharaa said U.S. President Bill Clinton had sent an "encouraging message" to Assad. It stressed his insistence to continue the peace process, push it forward and cooperate... to realise a just and lasting peace."

Meanwhile, U.S. Senate Republican leader Trent Lott promised on Saturday to cooperate with President Clinton if he was sincere about wanting to balance the budget and reduce government.

Republicans kept control of the House and Senate in Tuesday's elections.

Mr. Lott, in a response to Mr. Clinton's weekly radio address, said Republicans wanted to put the hitherto of the campaign behind them and work together for the good of the country.

"And if President Clinton meant what he said during the campaign, that cooperation will be forthcoming," Mr. Lott, a Mississippi Republican, said.

"He said the era of big government is over, and admitted the need for lower taxes and less regulation. He talked tough about crime and accepted major Republican legislation on welfare and illegal immigration.

## Saudi prince warns against U.S. policies

RIYADH (AP) — Arabs must remain wary of the United States and Israel, whose common policies are contrary to the interests of the other Middle East countries, a former Gulf war commander was quoted Saturday as saying.

Prince Khalid Ben Sultan, who jointly commanded the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war, told the Arabic daily Al Hayat that "the United States and its ally, Israel, are trying to redraw the geopolitical map of our region in Israel's favour."

The prince also charged that U.S. policy in the Gulf was designed "to keep Iran on the outside, Iraq under submission and the United States in the region."

He added: "For the security of our region... we must find a way of cooperation — and not confrontation — among those three neighbours."

Saudi Arabia is a staunch ally of the United States. It broke diplomatic relations with Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and Riyadh's ties with Iran remain less than amicable.

Prince Khalid, now a retired general, is highly respected here as a hero of the 1991 Gulf war in which an allied coalition liberated Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

He jointly commanded the multinational force with the Americans' Lt. Gen.

Norman Schwarzkopf.

In the interview with Al Hayat, Prince Khalid blamed much of the instability in the region on the United States and Israel.

He said the two are putting pressure on Palestinians to retract their claim to Arab East Jerusalem and accept Israeli sovereignty in many areas in the West Bank.

They also are trying to set up an Israeli-Turkish alliance with which to threaten Iran, Syria and Iraq, Prince Khalid was quoted as saying. He was referring to the recent military cooperation pacts between Tel Aviv and Ankara.

"We cannot stay with our hands tied when faced with these developments, which we fear will create an atmosphere inimical to our interests and Arab interests in general," Prince Khalid said.

Still, he called for peace with Israel, saying: "We must continue to seek, with perseverance, patience and good intentions, a way to make an honourable and comprehensive peace with Israel."

Prince Khalid urged the Gulf countries to learn to defend themselves, saying they should not look to the United States for protection.

He said that since the Gulf war, the United States was in a position to decide when or how to protect the oil-rich Arab countries, not the countries themselves.

## Salinger refuses to back down from TWA theory, denounces 'cover-up'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A former White House aide and journalist who sparked a firestorm by announcing that U.S. authorities have evidence that a navy missile downed TWA Flight 800 refused Saturday to back down from his claim.

Pierre Salinger, a former aide to U.S. President John Kennedy and ABC correspondent, said that U.S. authorities covered up the 1988 Lockerbie air disaster.

"The biggest cover-up right now is the Pan Am (Flight) 103," Mr. Salinger told CNN, referring to the December 1988 Transatlantic flight downed over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground.

"If they had done that in 1988, it is not impossible they would do it in 1996," he said. U.S. officials Friday issued a sharp response to claims made by Mr. Salinger that a U.S. navy missile accidentally caused TWA Flight 800 to crash into the Atlantic off Long Island, only minutes after take-off from New York.

Three federal agencies responded with a concerted denial to the claim made Thursday by Mr. Salinger, a retired ABC television bureau chief in Paris.

James Kallstrom, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

assistant director, called Mr. Salinger's assertions on the government missile theory "outrageous."

"We want to assure the American public, the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy, that nothing like that has taken place, would take place, would ever take place under any circumstances," Mr. Kallstrom said at a news conference.

"The notion that someone in the government, the president of the United States or someone else, would have held off this type of information... is absolute, pure utter nonsense," Mr. Kallstrom said.

Jim Hall, chairman of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is leading the investigation, described Mr. Salinger's remarks as "unfortunate and irresponsible."

Speaking at the same news conference, Mr. Hall added: "What Mr. Salinger claims is a new revelation that has actually been fodder for internet chatter for weeks."

And the secret service weighed in, with special agent Brian Gimlett, head of the agency's New York office, saying: "We have looked into every possibility, and our conclusion is that the military of this country has nothing to do with the explosion."

## China documentary to recall Mao's mistakes

BEIJING (R) — A new Chinese documentary will recount the errors of Mao Zedong, long hallowed as nearly infallible in official hagiographies. The documentary by the central news and documentary film studio, "China puts forth a Mao Zedong," would also feature material on other leading figures in China under Mao, the Shenzhen special economic zone daily said Friday. Among those shown would be official "villains" of modern China such as Mao's wife Jiang Qing and other members of the "gang of four" blamed for much of the terror and chaos that prevailed during Mao's tumultuous 1966-76 cultural revolution. The film will... objectively recount the mistakes Mao Zedong made in his later years as he turned his back on historical laws while on a new path of exploration," the newspaper said. Official films and books on Mao's life are usually filled with details of his military victories during the Chinese civil war or anecdotes of Mao performing some act of Communist goodwill. Current paramount leader Deng Xiaoping rewrote official views of Mao when he rose to power in the late 1970s by declaring the great helmsman to be 70 per cent correct and 30 per cent wrong. Mao unleashed the cultural revolution to cling on to power and stave off challenges from rivals in the party after his disastrous long march forward started about 28 million to death. Beijing vehemently protested against an unflattering British Broadcasting Corp (BBC) documentary in 1994 that portrayed Mao as possessing a huge sexual appetite.

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## Jordan jets raid South Lebanon

Lebanon (R) — Israeli fighter jets after guerrillas in South Lebanon in an attack. Lebanese security forces said the planes fired at least three times in the Al Toufah highlands near the border zone to the north. The report of casualties was not immediately reported to the press. The report of casualties was not immediately reported to the press. The report of casualties was not immediately reported to the press.

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